



## Authorities announce 2nd coronavirus death in U.S.

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Health officials in Washington state said Sunday night that a second person had died from the coronavirus — a man in his 70s from a nursing facility near Seattle where dozens of people were sick and had been tested for the virus. Researchers said earlier the virus may have been circulating for weeks undetected in Washington state. In a statement, Public Health—Seattle & King County said the man died Saturday. On Friday, health officials said a man in his 50s died of coronavirus, the first death from the virus in the U.S.. Both had underlying health conditions, and both were being treated at a hospital in Kirkland, Washington, east of Seattle.

Continued on next page



Antonia Lopez, a contract phlebotomist, takes a break from her work at Life Care Center of Kirkland, a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the COVID-19 virus, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Kirkland, Wash.

Associated Press

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#### Continued from front

Washington state now has 12 confirmed cases. State and local authorities stepped up testing for the illness as the number of new cases grew nationwide, with new infections announced in California, Florida, Illinois, Rhode Island, New York and Washington state.

Authorities in the Seattle area reported four new cases Sunday night, including the man who died. Two health care workers in California were also diagnosed. Of the new Washington state cases, two were women, one in her 80s and another in her 90s. Both were in critical condition. A man in his 70s was also in critical condition. All three were from the LifeCare nursing facility in Kirkland, Washington, where health officials said 50 people are sick and being tested for the virus.

On Sunday night, the International Association of Fire Fighters said 25 members who responded to calls for help at the nursing facility are being quarantined. The first U.S. case was a Washington state man who had visited China, where the virus first emerged, but several recent cases in the U.S. have had no known connection to travelers. In California, two health care workers in the San Francisco Bay area who cared for an earlier coronavirus patient were diagnosed with the virus on Sunday, the Alameda and Solano counties said in a joint statement.

The health care workers are both employed at North-Bay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville, California, and had exposure to a patient treated there before being transferred to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, the statement said. That patient was the first person in the U.S. discov-

ered to have contracted the coronavirus with no known overseas travel. Alameda County declared a state of emergency on Sunday following the news. In Oregon, the state Health Authority said Sunday that a second person in the state tested positive for the virus. The person is an adult in household contact with the first Oregonian to test positive and does not need medical attention, the authority said.

Elsewhere, authorities announced Sunday a third case in Illinois, a second in Rhode Island and a first case in New York as worried Americans swarmed stores to stock up on basic goods such as bottled water, canned foods and toilet paper.

The patients in Rhode Island were on a school trip to Italy together in February. A third person from the trip is being tested, and the school is shutting down for the week.

In New York, officials confirmed Sunday that a woman in her late 30s contracted the virus while traveling in Iran. She has been quarantined to her home in Manhattan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday that it was re-testing someone in San Antonio, Texas, who had been released from isolation Saturday but later returned after a lab test was "weakly positive." The patient had been treated at a local medical facility for several weeks after returning from Wuhan, China. The agency said the patient had met the criteria for release and was asymptomatic. Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff told the San Antonio Express-News that the patient was a woman who had come into contact with around a dozen people at a hotel. Both Wolff and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg ex-

pressed concerns over the patient's initial release in a statement.

As the fallout continued, Vice President Mike Pence and Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar sought to reassure the American public that the federal government is working to make sure state and local authorities are able to test for the virus. Both said during a round of TV talk show appearances Sunday that thousands more testing kits had been distributed to state and local officials, with thousands more to come.

"They should know we have the best public health system in the world looking out for them," Azar said, adding that additional cases will be reported and the overall risk to Americans is low.

As the cases ticked up, some Americans stocked up on basic supplies — particularly in areas with diagnosed cases — and began to take note of the impact on daily life. Stores such as Costco sold out of toilet paper, bottled water and hand sanitizer outside Portland, Oregon, where a case was announced Friday. Sports games and practices were canceled into the coming school week. Some churches said they would not offer communion because of fears of viral spread.

As Americans prepared, researchers at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington on Sunday said they had evidence the virus may have been circulating in the state for up to six weeks undetected — a finding that, if true, could mean hundreds of undiagnosed cases in the area. They posted their research online, but it was not published in a scientific journal or reviewed by other scientists.

Trevor Bedford, an asso-



**Travelers wear protective mask as they walk through in terminal 5 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Sunday, March 1, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

ciate professor who announced the preliminary findings on the virus in Washington state, said on Twitter late Saturday that genetic similarities between the state's first case on Jan. 20 and a case announced Friday indicated the newer case may have descended from the earlier one. The Jan. 20 case was the first known case in the U.S.

"I believe we're facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now due to narrow case definition requiring direct travel to China," he said on Twitter.

Bedford did not immediately reply to an e-mail requesting an interview Sunday.

Scientists not affiliated with the research said the results did not necessarily surprise them and pointed out that for many people — especially younger, healthier ones — the symptoms are not much worse than a flu or bad cold.

"We think that this has a pretty high rate of mild symptoms and can be asymptomatic. The symptoms are pretty non-specific and testing criteria has been pretty strict, so those combinations of factors means that it easily could have been circulating for a bit without us knowing," said Justin Lessler, an asso-

ciate professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Adam Lauring of University of Michigan called the findings "high quality work" from scientists who've done similar work with the flu virus for years.

"They show their data and they show their work," Lauring said. "It's more than a series of tweets" because the researchers back up what they found with data that they've shared online. "If there's something wrong, someone will find it."

Dr. Carlos del Rio of Emory University School of Medicine said the findings are from respected researchers in genomic sequencing and they make sense because of the geographic proximity of the two cases.

"This is a good time to reinforce the things we all should be doing to stop the spread of flu. Wash your hands. Don't touch your face. If you have a cold, stay home ... It's a good time to remind ourselves of that," he said.

Pence, named by the president to be the point-person overseeing the government's response, said more than 15,000 virus testing kits had been released over the weekend. And, the administration is working with a commercial provider to distribute 50,000 more, he said. □





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## West Virginia plan: Companies pay \$1.25B to end opioid suits

By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**  
and **GEOFF MULVIHILL**  
**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)**

— Communities in West Virginia say they would get \$1.25 billion from the drug industry in a proposed settlement that would end most of the litigation stemming from the opioid crisis in the state.

The deal would be the first of its kind, even as drug makers, distribution companies and pharmacies are considering settling about 3,000 lawsuits nationwide over what many — including the families of those who died of opioid addiction — say was their role in fueling a crisis that has been linked to more than 430,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000.

Paul Farrell, a West Virginia-based lawyer who is one of the leaders in the lawsuits nationwide, said governments in his state have agreed to the deal that was hammered out by 250 lawyers in a Charleston office building last week.

Farrell said the companies would have to determine how much each would pay and officials in West Virginia still have to figure out how to divide the money among the state and local governments, hospitals and other entities. A panel of judges could be called in to settle the allocation formula if there are disagreements.

Lawyers' fees would not come out of the \$1.25 billion. Rather, they would be an additional amount set by the West Virginia Mass Litigation Panel, which is made up of state judges.

How to handle payments for lawyers has been a factor in a split among states over whether to enter a national settlement over opioids with three major distributors plus the drug makers Johnson & Johnson and Teva.

"I've solved the attorney fee problem by handing it over to the court," Farrell said Monday. He would not comment on details of the talks surrounding the proposal.

Left out of the potential state deal would be state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's claims against drug makers. Morrisey would be able to continue those lawsuits or reach separate settlements — possibly as part of national deals.

The West Virginia plan also does not apply to two key drug makers, Purdue Pharma and Mallinckrodt. Both are attempting to settle opioid lawsuits they face through bankruptcy court. Farrell said West Virginia was seeking its own deal partly because the state would be cut out of a piece of a national \$18 billion settlement that's under consideration with the three dominant distribution companies, Amerisource-Bergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson.

The state has already settled lawsuits with those companies over the past three years for a total of \$63 million. West Virginia also settled with a group of smaller wholesalers in 2016 for \$11 million.

The West Virginia plan would be the first statewide

opioid settlement with companies from all parts of the drug industry. West Virginia has the country's highest fatal opioid overdose rate. A spokesman for McKesson issued a statement saying the company is still working toward a global settlement "that would serve as the best path forward by providing billions of dollars in near-term funding, as well as vast amounts of free medication to aid in treatment and provide relief to the communities that need it now, including West Virginia."

Officials in Ohio have been working on a plan for how to divide money among government entities if they reach a settlement, either as part of a national effort or separately.



In this July 1, 2013 file photo, is the exterior of the Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals office in St. Louis.

Associated Press

The timeline for accepting the West Virginia plan should become clearer this week. Farrell said the companies would have until the start of a federal trial expected in coming

months over claims from the city of Huntington and Cabell County against the major distributors. A judge is expected to set a date for it during a hearing Thursday. □




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## Klobuchar is ending her presidential bid, will endorse Biden

By SARA BURNETT  
Associated Press

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar ended her Democratic presidential campaign on Monday and plans to endorse rival Joe Biden in an effort to unify moderate voters behind the former vice president's White House bid.

She is flying to Dallas and plans to join Biden at his rally Monday night, according to her campaign.

Klobuchar's exit reflects an urgent push among moderates to consolidate behind Biden as a counter to progressive rival Bernie Sanders. Pete Buttigieg ended his campaign on Sunday and will also join Klobuchar and Biden in Dallas later Monday.

Klobuchar outlasted several better-known and better-funded Democrats, thanks to a better-than-expected third-place finish in New Hampshire. But she couldn't turn that into success elsewhere, as she struggled to build out a campaign that could compete across the country and had poor showings in the next contests.

The three-term senator had one of this cycle's more memorable campaign launches, standing outside in a Minnesota snowstorm last February to tout her "grit" and Midwestern sensibilities. Klobuchar argued that her record of getting things done in Washington and winning even in Republican parts of her state would help her win traditionally Democratic heartland states like Wisconsin and Michigan that flipped in 2016 to give Donald Trump the presidency.

She was hoping to own the moderate lane of a Democratic field that grew to some two dozen candidates. But that got much



In this Feb. 25, 2020, file photo Democratic presidential candidates, former Vice President Joe Biden, left, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., participate in a Democratic presidential primary debate at the Gaillard Center in Charleston, S.C., co-hosted by CBS News and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute.

Associated Press

tougher when Biden joined the race in April, starting as a front-runner and remaining there. Klobuchar also was quickly overshadowed by Buttigieg, a fellow Midwesterner who shot from being the largely unknown mayor of South Bend, Indiana, to a top contender on a mix of intelligence, strong oratory and youthful optimism.

Klobuchar entered the race with low name recognition compared with many of her rivals, a disadvantage she was still citing a year into her campaign. Outside Minnesota, the lawyer and former prosecutor was best known for her questioning of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh during a 2018 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Klobuchar asked Kavanaugh, who was accused of sexually assaulting a fellow teenager when both were in high school, if he ever had so much to drink that he didn't remember what

happened. Kavanaugh retorted, "Have you?" Klobuchar continued, unruffled, and Kavanaugh later apologized to the senator, whose father is recovering from alcoholism.

Even before she got into the race, Klobuchar was hit with news stories claiming she mistreated her Senate staff, and she had a higher-than-usual turnover rate in her office. Klobuchar said she is a "tough boss" but countered that she has several longtime employees, including the manager of her presidential campaign. She also faced questions over her prosecutor past. In January, The Associated Press published a story about Klobuchar's office in Minneapolis having prosecuted the case of a black teenager accused of the 2002 shooting death of an 11-year-old girl. Klobuchar has cited the story to show her toughness on crime. But an AP/APM Reports investigation uncovered new evidence and myriad incon-

sistencies, raising questions about whether Myon Burrell was railroaded by police. The issue followed Klobuchar on the campaign trail, with protesters forcing her to cancel a rally in suburban Minneapolis days before Super Tuesday.

Klobuchar campaigned on her productivity in Washington, where she led more than 100 bills that were signed into law. And she criticized the more liberal candidates in the field, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Sanders, for running on promises she said they couldn't keep.

Rather than advocate for "Medicare for All," for example, Klobuchar favored expanding the Affordable Care Act and working to reduce prescription drug costs — changes she said had a chance of passing and would make a significant impact. She supported making community colleges free but said she wouldn't promise to do the same for four-year colleges

and universities because the U.S. cannot afford it.

"I've got to tell the truth," she said during a CNN town hall at a college campus, where she acknowledged her position may be unpopular with younger voters. Klobuchar was one of the first candidates to outline a plan for addressing addiction and mental health, an issue she described as personal because of her father's longtime struggle. Her accounts of growing up with a father suffering from alcoholism and watching him be forced to choose between prison or treatment were some of the most compelling moments of speeches, interviews and discussions with voters. Klobuchar said that her father described getting help as being "pursued by grace" and that it's an opportunity all people fighting addiction deserve.

But Klobuchar couldn't match her top competitors in fundraising. She raised about \$11 million in the last quarter of 2019 — roughly half of what Sanders and Buttigieg received. The lack of finances early on in the campaign meant Klobuchar wasn't able to expand her operation on the ground in Iowa and New Hampshire until months after her rivals. She then scrambled to put an operation in place in Nevada, South Carolina and the 14 states that will vote on Super Tuesday.

Still, there were bright spots, including strong debate performances that helped bring in new donors. Her campaign credited Klobuchar's showing in a debate days before the New Hampshire primary with helping her clinch a better-than-expected third place in the state's primary, topping Warren and Biden. □



# Navy is overhauling education system as US advantages erode

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) —

The U.S. Navy is overhauling its approach to education because the nation no longer has a massive economic and technological edge over potential adversaries, according to a strategy released Monday.

The Education for Seapower Strategy 2020, provided to The Associated Press ahead of its release, is the first unified, comprehensive education strategy for the Navy and Marine Corps, said John Kroger, who is implementing the strategy as the Navy's first chief learning officer.

It is very much a response to the nation's geopolitical position in the world today, versus the advantages it had at the end of the Cold War, Kroger said, noting China's economic strength and investments in 5G networks, energy storage and other major technologies that matter for war-fighting. The Navy wants to create a naval community college to provide associate's degrees to tens of thousands of young sailors and Marines, at no cost to them. It plans to unify the schools within the existing naval university system, similar to a state university system, and invest in them, as well as enact new policies to encourage and reward those who pursue professional military and civilian education.

"In a world where potential adversaries are peers



In this Saturday, July 27, 2019, file photo, sailors stand during a commissioning ceremony for the U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius, at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

economically and technologically, how do you win?" Kroger said in an interview. "We think we can out-fight potential opponents because we can out-think them. In order to do that, we must have, by far, the best military education program in the world."

Kroger came to the Navy from Harvard University, where he was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School and leader in residence at the Kennedy School of Government. He was president of Reed College in Portland, Oregon, from 2012 to 2018, and previously served as Oregon's attorney general. Kroger served as a Marine from 1983 to 1986.

Though the need to ensure

an advantage in fighting wars is driving the reforms, Kroger said, the educational opportunities will change how and whom the Navy recruits. It's more challenging to recruit when there's relatively low unemployment, he said.

The strategy does not specifically say how much the Navy is looking to spend on education or where the money will come from. Kroger said it will rely mostly on existing education funding that can be used in a more cost-effective way. About \$109 million was transferred from other Navy programs this fiscal year to pay for immediate education needs, including start-up costs for the community college.

The Navy will ask Congress for more money for education beginning in fiscal year 2022, but the numbers aren't finalized, Kroger said. He estimated it will cost \$40 million to \$50 million annually for the community college, to educate about 40,000 people each year. There would not be a physical community college campus. Some general education classes would be provided online, but sailors and Marines would do the vast majority of their coursework online through civilian universities and community colleges that partner with the Navy. The Navy plans to seek approval from Congress this year

and enroll the first students next year.

For the existing naval schools, the Navy wants to do budgeting for the system as a whole and Kroger will review their curriculum to avoid unnecessary duplication.

The schools — the Naval War College in Rhode Island, Marine Corps University in Virginia, Naval Postgraduate School in California and Naval Academy in Maryland — will be expected to align their plans with the strategy.

To encourage service members to pursue educational opportunities, academic achievement will be rewarded by the boards that decide promotions and integrated into fitness reports and evaluations. There's a close connection between a person's curiosity and aptitude for learning and their capacity to lead, the strategy states.

When the United States entered World War II, nearly all its admirals were Naval War College graduates. Now, less than a quarter of them are because the Navy hasn't stressed education as much, Kroger said.

"It's somewhat of a shift, I think, from ways people think about the effectiveness of the armed forces," he said. "We're not talking here about how fast our jets are, how powerful our missiles are. We're talking about the brainpower of our team." □

## After 2 weeks of pounding, Leaning Tower of Dallas is down

DALLAS (AP) — The Leaning Tower of Dallas, the nearly iconic remnant of a high-rise building implosion gone awry, finally collapsed in a cloud of dust Monday after two weeks of being whacked with a headache ball.

The tower collapsed about 3:15 p.m. after a few last whacks with a wrecking ball swung by a high-rise crane. No injuries were reported.

The tower was the core of an 11-story building that was imploded with explosives on Feb. 16. The 11 floors surrounding the core duly collapsed, but the solid concrete core containing the stairway and elevator shafts remained standing at an angle. The demolition contractor has been whacking away at it ever since with a 5,600-pound wrecking ball.

A spokeswoman for De La

Vega Development, which is redeveloping the site, had said immediately after the implosion that the tower's demolition could take up to four days.

It ended up taking almost four times that amount of time before it was taken down. In the meantime, the tower drew hundreds of people who took often-whimsical photographs of themselves with the tower in the background. □

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# Supreme Court will decide the fate of Obama health care law

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide a lawsuit that threatens the Obama-era health care law, a case that will keep health care squarely in front of voters even though a decision won't come until after the 2020 election.

The court said it would hear an appeal by 20 mainly Democratic states of a lower-court ruling that declared part of the statute unconstitutional and cast a cloud over the rest.

For the more than 20 million people covered under "Obamacare," nothing changes while the Supreme Court deliberates. The law's subsidized private insurance coverage and Medicaid expansion remain in place while the issues are litigated again.

Defenders of the Affordable Care Act argued that the questions raised by the case are too important to let it drag on for months or years in lower courts and that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans erred when it struck down the health law's now toothless requirement that Americans have health insurance.

The case will be the third major Supreme Court battle over the law since President Barack Obama signed it nearly 10 years ago, on March 23, 2010. The court has twice upheld the heart of the law, with Chief Justice John Roberts memorably siding with the court's liberals in 2012, amid Obama's reelection campaign. The majority that upheld the law twice remains on the court, Roberts and the four liberal justices.

The Trump administration's views on the law have shifted over time, but it has always supported getting rid of provisions that prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against people with existing health ailments. Even as the administration seeks to overturn "Obamacare" in court, President Donald Trump has claimed people with preexisting conditions



In this Jan. 27, 2020 photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington, DC.

would still be protected. Neither the White House nor congressional Republicans have specified how. Congressional repeal narrowly failed in 2017, when the Republicans controlled the House and the Senate. Any repeal effort now would be blocked by the Democratic-led House under Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The Supreme Court's review of the case guarantees that the fate of the health care law will be in the public's eye as the election approaches, even if the decision doesn't come until 2021.

The timing means written briefs from both sides will likely be due in the summer, and arguments could take place in early fall before the election, if the court follows its usual practice of scheduling cases. If that happens, audio snippets from the oral arguments would be available for campaign commercials, said Timothy Jost, a retired law professor for Washington and Lee

University in Virginia and a supporter of the ACA.

"I think the Democrats will hammer away at the fact that the Trump administration is not defending the law, and basically arguing the whole thing should be invalidated," said Jost. "They'll focus on issues like pre-existing conditions and 20 million people losing health insurance."

Democratic presidential candidates agree on expanding coverage to the 28 million people who remain uninsured, even as they sharply debate how to do that. Former Vice President Joe Biden and other moderates would build on the ACA, while Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders wants to institute a new government health plan to cover all U.S. residents, including those who now have private insurance.

"This case is a stark, life-and-death reminder how much is at stake this fall," Biden said in a statement. The Democratic states had

asked for a fast-track review with a decision by late June, before the 2020 elections in November. Instead, the justices probably will hear arguments in the fall, with a decision likely in the spring of 2021.

Still, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra welcomed the court's decision to take up the appeal. "As Texas and the Trump Administration fight to disrupt our healthcare system and the coverage that millions rely upon, we look forward to making our case in defense of the ACA. American lives depend upon it," Becerra said in a statement.

The high court action takes the case out of the hands of a federal district judge in Texas who had previously struck down the entire law. The new case stems from the 2017 passage of tax legislation that left in place the law's requirement that Americans carry health insurance but eliminated the financial penalty for

not buying coverage. Congress made no other changes to the law.

Texas and other Republican-led states sued, arguing that the elimination of the penalty rendered the law's so-called individual mandate unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor agreed, adding that the mandate was so central to the law that without it the rest of the law must fall, too.

While finding the health law's insurance requirement to be unconstitutional, the appeals court made no decision on such popular provisions as protections for people with preexisting conditions, Medicaid expansion and coverage for young adults up to age 26 on their parents' policies.

The 5th Circuit sent the case back to O'Connor to determine whether other parts of the law can be separated from the insurance requirement and thus remain in place.

University of Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett said the high court's decision to "intervene now, and not -- as it could have -- to wait for the case to develop more below, suggests that the justices are skeptical about the challengers' sweeping argument that the entire Act is unconstitutional."

Besides expanding insurance coverage, the 900-page law also made many changes to other programs, including Medicare, community health centers and fraud-fighting. Sorting out whether some provisions could remain while others go with the insurance mandate would be a colossal effort.

The justices on Monday granted two different appeals, one from the Democratic states and the other from the Republican side, that essentially put all the issues in front of the court, from the insurance mandate to the validity of the entire law if the mandate does not survive. The court took no action on a separate appeal filed by the Democratic-led House of Representatives. □

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In this Feb. 15, 2018, file photo, law enforcement officers block off the entrance to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., following a deadly shooting at the school.  
Associated Press

## Man gets 5+ years' prison for harassing Parkland victims

By **CURT ANDERSON**  
AP Legal Affairs Writer  
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

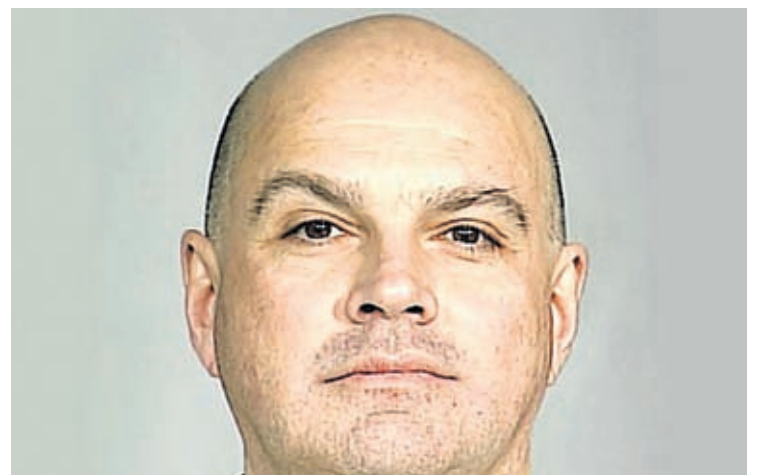
— A California man who is on the autism spectrum was sentenced Monday to more than five years in prison for cyberstalking families of Parkland, Florida, school shooting victims. U.S. District Judge Rodolfo Ruiz imposed the sentence on 22-year-old Brandon Fleury of Santa Ana, California, rejecting a request by prosecutors for the maximum 20-year sentence. Fleury was convicted by a jury in October of three counts of cyberstalking and one count of transmitting a kidnapping threat. Trial evidence showed that between December 2018 and January 2019, Fleury used several Instagram accounts to threaten and harass families of victims of the Valentine's Day 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School,

which left 17 dead and 17 wounded. In some messages, he claimed kinship with and even impersonated shooting defendant Nikolas Cruz. In others, he invoked the names of infamous serial killers such as Ted Bundy. "I killed your loved ones hahaha," one message said. "Did you like my Valentines gift? I killed your friends," said another. One of his user names was "nikolas.cruz.killed.your.sister," court records show. One message from that account said this: "Hahaha she had her whole life ahead of her and I STOLE IT FROM HER," according to court documents. "The victims lived in constant fear that the individual bombarding them" with the messages would follow in Cruz's footsteps, Assistant U.S. Attorney Ajay Alexander said in court papers. □

## Prosecutor: Ex-convict was in bed with victim when arrested

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An ex-convict accused of forcing young women he met in his daughter's dormitory into prostitution or forced labor after winning their trust was in bed with a victim when he was arrested, a prosecutor said Monday as the New Jersey man lost a bid to be freed on bail. The detail of Lawrence Ray's arrest was revealed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon as she argued against bail in Manhattan federal court. A defense lawyer argued that the charges stemmed from events long ago and that her client can't wait to contest the charges.

A woman he described as his wife was a victim, the prosecutor said, and they lived in a residence in which Ray kept a lock on the refrigerator door, restricting their access to food. Recovery for the victims will probably be a long ordeal, the prosecutor said. Ray, once convicted of securities fraud, had a history of failing to obey court orders, tampering with witnesses, had jumped bail once before and had used his daughter as a human shield as U.S. marshals arrested him years ago, Sassoon said. Ray, 60, of Piscataway, New Jersey, pocketed over \$1.7 million in total in 2017 and 2018 from the proceeds of a victim who worked as a prostitute, Sassoon said. And, she said, he had the money to flee because he claimed his offshore internet domain-name business was worth millions of dol-



This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's office shows Lawrence Ray, an ex-convict known for his role in a scandal involving former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik.

Associated Press

lars. Ray was arrested last month on charges that alleged he used "physical, sexual and psychological abuse" to extort money from five different students at Sarah Lawrence College, a private liberal arts college outside New York City. Authorities said he convinced them they were indebted to him, subjecting them to grueling hourslong interrogations that included sexual exploitation and humiliation as he deprived them of food and sleep. "He essentially broke their spirit," Sassoon said. Two of the female victims were living with Ray when he was arrested, and one woman was in bed with him at the time, the prosecutor said. Ray "sexually groomed" one woman, getting her to engage in sex with various men while he filmed the encounters, Sassoon said. He had sex with multiple victims himself, she said.

Meanwhile, he tried to shield himself from investigators by keeping cash in bank accounts under the names of his victims or in a backpack he carried around, Sassoon said. Ray is charged with sex trafficking and extortion. If convicted, he could face a mandatory minimum of 15 years in prison on the sex trafficking charge alone, she said. Ray's defense lawyer, Assistant Federal Defender Marne Lenox, asked Magistrate Judge Kevin Nathaniel Fox to release her client to house arrest on \$100,000 bail on the sex trafficking and extortion charges. Much of the evidence, Lenox said, relates to events from over a decade ago after he went through a nasty divorce or stem from two alleged victims, one with a troubled past, including problems with drugs and another who has already signed a book deal to profit from the story. □



# Exit polls: PM gains in Israel vote, but short of majority

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a solid edge over his main rival in Israel's third election in under a year, exit polls indicated Monday night, but it was unclear whether he can clinch the parliamentary majority needed to claim victory.

Exit polls on Israel's main TV channels showed Netanyahu and his nationalist and religious allies winning 60 seats, one short of a parliamentary majority. The center-left bloc, led by former military chief Benny Gantz, was projected to win 52 to 54 seats.

If the official results match the exit polls, Netanyahu would receive a major boost ahead of his trial on corruption charges, set to begin March 17.

Netanyahu, the longest-serving leader in Israeli history, has been a caretaker prime minister for more than a year as a divided country has weathered two inconclusive votes and prolonged political paralysis. With opinion polls forecasting another deadlock, Netanyahu had sought a late surge in support to score a parliamentary majority along with other nationalist parties for a fourth consecutive term in office and fifth overall.

He faced a stiff challenge once again from Gantz, whose centrist Blue and White party ran on a campaign message that the prime minister is unfit to lead because of the serious charges against him.

Both parties appear unable to form a coalition with their traditional allies. With the prospect of a unity government between them seemingly off the table after a particularly nasty campaign, the vote may



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara Netanyahu cast their ballots during the Israeli legislative elections at a polling station in Jerusalem, Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

well turn into merely a preamble to another election. "I hope that today marks the start of a healing process, where we can begin living together again," Gantz said upon casting his ballot in his hometown of Rosh Ha'ayin in central Israel, warning voters not to "get drawn in by the lies or by the violence" after the acrimonious campaign. There was little fanfare ahead of the vote, with a noticeable absence of campaign posters on the streets and public rallies that typically characterize the run-up to Israeli elections.

The elections commission said 56.3% of eligible voters had cast ballots by 6 p.m. (1600 GMT, 11 a.m. EST), the highest turnout by that time of the day since 1999.

Israel set up some 15 sta-

tions to allow voting by hundreds of Israelis who have been ordered to remain in home quarantine after possible exposure to the virus.

"The corona thing is completely under control. Today we've taken all the precautions that are necessary.

People can go and vote with complete confidence," Netanyahu said after casting his ballot in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu sought to portray himself as a statesman who is uniquely qualified to lead the country through challenging times. Gantz has tried to paint him as divisive and scandal-plagued, offering himself as a calming influence and an honest alternative.

U.S. President Donald Trump's Mideast initiative,

which strongly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians, had been expected to give Netanyahu a major boost. But both Netanyahu and Gantz welcomed the initiative, and it appears to have had little impact on voters.

Gantz says he favors a national unity government with Likud, but only if it rids itself of its longtime leader because of the corruption charges against him. Netanyahu, who still enjoys widespread support in his party, insists he must remain prime minister in any unity deal.

With his career on the line, Netanyahu campaigned furiously. He's taken a hard turn to the right in hopes of rallying his nationalist base, promising to expand and annex West Bank settlements. In a campaign marked by ugly smears, Netanyahu's surrogates have spread unfounded allegations that Gantz is corrupt, unstable and susceptible to blackmail by Iran.

Netanyahu is desperate to assemble a narrow 61-seat majority in parliament with his hard-line religious and

nationalist allies before his trial begins. He has failed to secure himself immunity from prosecution, but with a strong hold on power he could seek other avenues to derail the legal proceedings against him.

Netanyahu is charged with bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from accusations he accepted lavish gifts from billionaire friends and promised to promote advantageous legislation for a major newspaper in exchange for favorable coverage. He vowed to prove his innocence in court.

Maverick politician Avigdor Lieberman once again looms as a potential king-maker, with neither Netanyahu nor Gantz able to secure a parliamentary majority without his support. Lieberman has not committed himself to either candidate, although he has promised there will not be a fourth election.

Official results are expected overnight. That's when the real jockeying may get underway, with attention shifting to President Reuven Rivlin, who is responsible for choosing a candidate for prime minister. He is supposed to select the leader who he believes has the best chance of putting together a stable coalition. The honor usually goes to the head of the largest party, but not necessarily. Just as important is the number of lawmakers outside the party who recommend the candidate.

Rivlin's selection will then have up to six weeks to form a coalition. If he fails, another candidate then has 28 days to form an alternative coalition. If that effort fails, new elections would be forced.

"This is usually a holiday, but to be honest, I have no festivity in me, just a sense of deep shame before you, the citizens of Israel," Rivlin said as he voted. "We don't deserve another horrible and filthy campaign like the one that ends today and we don't deserve this endless instability. We deserve a government that will work for us." □





# Dutch terror trial starting for deadly Utrecht tram shooting

By **MIKE CORDER**

**Associated Press**

**UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)**

— The gunman in last year's attack in the Dutch city of Utrecht walked calmly into and around a tram, shooting at passengers from close range while shouting "Allahu akbar," or "Allah Akbar," according to witness statements read Monday as the terror trial of the suspect got underway.

The attack left four people dead and three wounded and shocked the Netherlands, which has avoided the large-scale terror attacks that have hit nearby nations Belgium and France.

The alleged shooter, Gokmen Tanis — bearded and handcuffed — sat flanked by guards and police in a courtroom packed with relatives of victims as Presiding Judge Ruud van Veldhuisen read out statements given to police by witnesses to the mass shooting on March 18 last year.

Tanis, 38, said nothing throughout the hearing Monday morning. He smiled as he entered the courtroom and stared straight ahead as the pre-



**In this Monday March 18, 2019, file image, the body of one of three victims is covered with a white sheet as it lies next to a tram after a shooting incident in Utrecht, Netherlands.**

**Associated Press**

siding judge asked if he had yawned because he was nervous. He later refused to answer repeated questions from Van Veldhuisen.

"Do you not dare? Do you now want" to answer questions? Van Veldhuisen asked.

The judge asked Tanis if his actions had been in response to the shooting in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, just days before the tram shooting, in

which a gunman killed 51 people at two mosques. Tanis gave no answer. The judge said that a nephew had sent Tanis video images of the Christchurch massacre.

Later, Tanis was removed from the hearing and taken to a separate room to follow proceedings after he spat at his court-appointed lawyer.

Thea Terpstra, whose brother Rinke was killed in the

shooting, watched the proceedings from the public gallery, sitting a few meters (feet) behind the suspect.

"I want a life sentence. Preferably a double life sentence, but that doesn't exist here," she said outside court.

Terpstra said she was not concerned that Tanis said nothing.

"I don't think he has much interesting to tell us," she said. "I don't have to know

his motives. I lost my brother and nothing can bring him back."

The court played an animated video reconstruction of the attack based on images from surveillance cameras in the tram. It showed the shooter carrying a pistol with a silencer attached walking through the tram, shooting passengers from close range, after the weapon initially failed to work.

There were 17 people, including a young couple and their child in a stroller, in the tram carriage where the shooting happened.

Van Veldhuisen said that the silencer was adorned with texts referring to Islam that forensic tests later established were written by Tanis.

The reconstruction showed the gunman jumping out of the tram and walking toward cars stopped at traffic lights where he appeared to pause to decide where to shoot next. He pointed his pistol at a car and shot through the windshield. The driver, identified in court only by his first name, Willem, died some 10 days later. □

# Putin's new amendments revere God, ban same sex marriages

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**

**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)**

— Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday submitted a slew of new proposed amendments to the country's Constitution that include a mention of God and describe marriage as a heterosexual union.

Putin first proposed amending the constitution in January's state-of-the-nation speech, saying it is necessary to broaden the powers of parliament and bolster democracy. Kremlin foes have described the proposed changes as part of Putin's efforts to remain in charge after his current six-year term ends in 2024.

The Kremlin-controlled parliament quickly endorsed Putin's draft in the first of three required readings last month, and is set to give

it the final approval next week, setting the stage for a nationwide vote on April 22.

Following up on proposals from a Kremlin working group that worked in parallel with lawmakers, Putin on Monday presented 24 pages of additional amendments for the second reading set for March 10.

Lawmakers say they include an article that points to a millennium-long Russian history and pledges homage to "ancestors who bequeathed to us their ideals and a belief in God."

The amendment follows a proposal by the Russian Orthodox Church to add a reference to God to the Constitution.

Another amendment describes marriage as a "union of a man and a woman," a wording in sync with Putin's



**Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a meeting with members of a working group created to discuss constitutional amendments in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

long-stated opposition to same-sex marriages.

The president also responded to a working group member's suggestion to add wording that would prevent any future Russian ruler from giving away Ukraine's Crimea — annexed from Ukraine in 2014

— or any other territory. He added an amendment that prohibits surrendering any part of Russian territory and outlaws making calls for that.

Another proposal underlines a special status of Russians as a "state-forming" ethnic group while pledg-

ing to protect the nation's other ethnic groups.

And in sync with proposals to outlaw disparaging the Soviet role in WW II victory, Putin added an article pledging to protect "historic truth" and forbid "belittling the people's heroic protection of the Motherland."

The amendment comes as Russia prepares to celebrate the 75th anniversary of victory in World War II — the nation's most important holiday.

The new set of amendments doesn't offer any clue, however, what position Putin may take to continue calling the shots after his term ends. The 67-year-old Russian leader has been in power for more than 20 years, making him the nation's longest-serving leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. □



## Ex-guard frees dozens of hostages in Manila mall, is subdued

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**

— A recently dismissed security guard freed dozens of hostages and was subdued by police after walking out of a shopping mall in the Philippine capital on Monday, ending a day-long hostage crisis in an upscale commercial district near the police and military headquarters, officials said. The former guard at the Greenhills shopping center, identified by police as Archie Paray, left the mall in San Juan City in metropolitan Manila with the remaining hostages, who were then secured by police. Several others had managed to escape earlier, police said.

"Everyone is in shock, very traumatized. We'll have to give them time to recover," said San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora, who ordered an investigation, including into how the suspect was able to enter the mall with a pistol and grenades. Instead of being immedi-



**Police subdue hostage taker Archie Paray, center, as he speaks to the waiting media shortly after releasing all his hostages at the V-Mall in Manila, Philippines on Monday, March 2, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

ately arrested, the suspect was allowed to speak for several minutes to journalists and authorities to describe his grievances against his former bosses, whom he accused of corruption and abuse, before police approached and subdued him.

Zamora said the suspect had a pistol with him when he walked down from a

second-floor administrative office where he had held dozens of hostages, many of them mall employees. Other people hid in nearby offices and hallways and escaped in batches, he said.

There were between 60 to 70 hostages and people who were trapped in the mall by the standoff, Zamora said.

"I'm very thankful that everything ended up peacefully," said the mayor, who negotiated with the hostage-taker to give up his weapons and guaranteed his safety shortly before the crisis ended.

"He was asking if it's the cemetery or prison and I told him, Archie, you're safe," Zamora said.

The gunman shot and wounded a security officer at the V-Mall, part of the Greenhills complex, before he rushed to the second floor and took the hostages, Zamora said. The mall officer was in stable condition at a nearby hospital.

The hostage taker was dismissed after abandoning his job in recent weeks without notifying management, Zamora said.

The suspect later used his cellphone to deliver a message to the guards and the media, expressing his anger over a change in his work hours and accusing some of his superiors of cor-

ruption.

In a bid to appease the suspect during the hostage crisis, six officers in charge of overseeing the mall's security apologized to him at an early evening news conference for "shortcomings" and resigned or offered to quit.

"I'm asking for his forgiveness, and because of this, I'll resign from my job so this crisis will come to an end," said Oscar Hernandez, one of the security officers.

SWAT commandos entered the mall as the crisis unfolded, assault rifles ready. Other policemen stood by outside, along with an ambulance. The shopping complex, popular for its restaurants, shops, bars and a bazaar, lies near an upscale residential enclave, a golf club and the police and military headquarters in the bustling Manila metropolis of more than 12 million people, where law and order have long been a concern. □

## 'I am not a traitor': Malaysia's new PM appeals for support

**By EILEEN NG**

**Associated Press**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)** — Malaysia's new

prime minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, appealed Monday to the divided nation for a chance to prove his mettle amid doubts over his legitimacy, and vowed to form a corruption-free Cabinet despite aligning with a former scandal-plagued party.

In his first address to the nation since being sworn in on Sunday, Muhyiddin said he wasn't a traitor and blamed former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for causing last week's political turmoil with his resignation. He gave no explanation of why he led his Bersatu party out of the governing Alliance of Hope, depriving it of a majority and causing its collapse less than two years after its historic victory in 2018 that ousted a corruption-tainted coalition that had ruled for 61 years.

Bersatu joined hands with the same coalition that it

ousted, along with several smaller parties, to form a Malay-majority government.

"I know some people are angry with me. As expected, some parties labeled me as a traitor. Listen carefully. I am not a traitor," Muhyiddin said in a late-night televised speech. "My conscience is clear that I am here to save the country from prolonged political turmoil."

Muhyiddin said his weekend appointment by the king was by the book because he has the support of a majority of lawmakers. That has been disputed by Mahathir, who said he had majority backing to serve as prime minister for a third time and called for an urgent vote in Parliament.

Mahathir, 94, has said he felt betrayed by long-time ally Muhyiddin, who he said had been plotting a coup for a long time with the United Malays National Organization, where several officials including former Prime Minister Najib Razak



**In this photo released by Malaysia's Department of Information, the country's new Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin poses for pictures on his first day at the prime minister's office in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Monday, March 2, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

are on trial on graft charges.

Many Malaysians are angered by what they see as a betrayal of their vote for a change in 2018 elections, with small protest rallies held over the weekend to "reject the traitors" and the hashtag #NotMyPM trending on Twitter.

Muhyiddin, 72, promised to pick individuals who are clean, have integrity and are of high caliber for his Cabinet despite UMNO's re-

turn to power. Muhyiddin, a nationalistic politician who once famously quipped he was Malay first and Malaysian second, also vowed to be a prime minister for all ethnic groups.

His government also includes a hard-line Islamic party, sparking fears of greater Islamization and more pro-Malay policies. Ethnic Malays account for 60% of Malaysia's 32 million people, with large Chinese and Indian minorities.

"I offer my body and soul to the country," Muhyiddin said. "Give me a chance to leverage my 40 years of political and government experience to steer Malaysia to glory."

Muhyiddin and Mahathir were former members of UMNO who formed Bersatu in 2016 amid anger over a massive corruption scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund.

Muhyiddin served in various ministries during Mahathir's first stint as prime minister for 22 years until 2003. He was appointed deputy prime minister when Najib took power in 2009 but was sacked in 2015 after he criticized Najib's handling of the 1MDB scandal.

Bersatu teamed up with the Alliance of Hope with a pact that Mahathir would eventually hand over power to former rival Anwar Ibrahim. Muhyiddin was the home minister under the short-lived alliance but only took up the post months later following treatment for pancreatic cancer. □



# People with albinism issued with protective alarms in Malawi

By **KENNETH JALI**

**BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)** —

On a sunny February day, Catherine Amidu looked downcast. The protective alarm she received in October had not been working for close to two weeks, she said.

The 17-year-old with albinism survived an attempt on her life in 2017 when unknown attackers whisked her from her Malawi home in the middle of the night but quickly abandoned her when villagers intervened. She now sees the new keychain-like alarm as the best way to alert others in case of another attack. "Without it, it means I don't have protection at all," she said. "What will I do when the people return to finish what they started?"

People with albinism in several African countries live in fear of being abducted and killed because of the widespread but mistaken belief that their body parts carry special powers. Because of the superstition surrounding people with albinism, their body parts can be sold for thousands of dollars.

Amidu's home district of Machinga has more people with albinism than anywhere else in Malawi, with over 3,000. The southern African nation has more than 134,000 people with albinism, representing 0.8% of the total population, according to the national statistics office in 2018.

The vulnerability of people with albinism is compounded by poverty and superstition. Since 2014, at least 26 people with albinism in



In this photo taken Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, Catherine Amidu, right, with her best neighbourhood friend Aisha at her home in Machinga, Malawi.

Malawi have been killed while 11 remain missing, according to the national Association of Persons with Albinism.

On Feb. 24, the United Nations office in Malawi condemned a new attack in which a 92-year-old woman with albinism was assaulted by people who cut off two of her toes. The U.N. noted a spike in such attacks and killings during election tensions last year. At the request of the Association of Persons with Albinism, President Peter Mutharika last year appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the abductions and killings. Its results have not yet been released.

To help address the concerns, the Malawi Police Service in September be-

gan distributing personal security alarms. Authorities say the sound the alarm produces when a pin is pulled alerts people in nearby neighborhoods to assist whenever a person with albinism is in danger.

At least 5,000 of the alarms have been distributed to people with albinism, Malawi's finance minister, Joseph Mwanamvekha, told parliament on Feb. 21. Catherine's mother, Chrissy Stephano, said the alarms offer hope but shortcomings exist.

She said her daughter is lucky that the local chapter of the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi managed to bring her a spare gadget about two weeks after the original one failed.

"One time, the alarm ran out of batteries and I took it to police for charging, only to collect it sometime later in the same day. The problem is that it does not have any accessories like an electric charger one can use to recharge," Stephano said.

Mercy Mleme, secretary of the local chapter of the Association of Persons with Albinism, acknowledged the problems.

"Being a rural area, we do not have electricity. Even in a case where we had power, most persons with albinism live in the remotest of areas and cannot manage to charge their gadgets," Mleme said. "We have advised them to take care of themselves because the alarms do not

provide enough security. We also have told them to walk with company and in groups made up of people they rely and trust."

In a low-tech alternative to the alarms, the association has encouraged people with albinism to buy whistles to help alert neighbors in case of emergency.

Abdulrazak Baison, chairman of the association's chapter in Machinga, said they were sidelined when the personal alarms were handed out.

"We cannot even say how many alarms have been distributed because the police were distributing them without involving us," he said.

He warned that some people were putting too much faith in the alarms and encouraged them to maintain any previous security measures.

"Those that had people accompanying them in their houses for security at night should not stop because they have received alarms. The community surrounding the house of a person with albinism should always be alert," Baison said.

Inspector Chance Chifumbi, the community policing officer for Malawi's southern region, said access to batteries that power the alarms is the main problem. "Apart from sounding the alarm, they also are supposed to flash the light wherever they are hiding so that people notice where they are," she said. "Instead of using it for the intended purpose, they are using the flashlight to light up their houses due to poverty." □

Associated Press

# South Africa to repatriate citizens stranded in Wuhan, China

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME** Associated Press

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — South Africa is set to evacuate 151 citizens from the Chinese city of Wuhan as a new virus continues to spread across the globe, authorities said Sunday.

The South Africans will be evacuated in a military operation that will see them quarantined for 21 days after they arrive in the country, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said.

All of the South Africans returning are healthy and have tested negative for the virus, but as a safety precaution they will be under quarantine upon their arrival in South Africa, Mkhize said. The airlift would take place in about 10 days,

he said.

South Africa is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to evacuate its citizens from China and affected areas.

The decision to evacuate the citizens follows pleas from families of South Africans still held up in Wuhan, the city identified as the main source of the outbreak.

South Africa's health care facilities are ready to receive the evacuated South Africans, though these sites wouldn't be made known, Mkhize said.

He said the country has prepared to deal with the new virus and has designated selected

public hospitals to deal with any possible infections.

South Africa hasn't recorded any confirmed COVID-19 cases within its borders. Three countries in Africa — Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria — have reported cases of the disease. Other African countries are on alert, with some health experts saying several national health systems on the continent are weak in disease surveillance and control.

South Africa confirmed last week that two citizens who had been working on the Princess Diamond cruise ship have the virus and will continue to receive treatment in Japan. □



# Friends say Tijuana woman was stalked even after death

**MARK STEVENSON**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The man was obsessed with Marbella Valdez. He sent her gifts, bought food for her friends. Prosecutors say he even planted a tracking device on her car. And when the 20-year-old law student's body, beaten, bound and strangled, was found at a Tijuana garbage dump, he approached police to demand the case be solved. He even turned up at her funeral bearing a floral arrangement and wearing a T-shirt with her photograph and the feminist slogan "Not One More Woman" printed on it.

A week later, he was arrested and charged with her murder.

The man — identified by Mexican rules only by his first name, Juan — has insisted on his innocence.

But friends and family say Marbella Valdez was stalked in life and even after death.

Authorities in the border state of Baja California confirmed that the suspect is the man seen in photographs depositing flowers on Marbella's coffin as it was lowered into the ground on Feb. 14.

By that time, Marbella's family already believed he was the one who killed her, but they couldn't say a word.

"And the guy showed up at the funeral and we had to shut our mouths, which was the hardest thing in the world," said William H. Messick, a San Diego software executive who has run a self-funded non-profit since 2014 to help youngsters like Marbella as they age out of orphanages. While he never legally adopted her, Marbella considered him a father.

"I wanted to throw up every time I saw him, I wanted to kill him," Messick said. "And we're getting thrown under the bus. In the media, people are like, 'Oh my God, why did they let him go to the funeral?' We had no choice, we had to play along, otherwise he would have fled, or he would have killed Brenda (Mar-



The casket of slain Marbella Valdez is carried by her ex-boyfriend Jairo Solano, right, from the hearse to her grave in Tijuana, Mexico, Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.

bella's adoptive sister)."

The pair, Messick and Brenda Villarreal, had done much of the investigation after she disappeared on Feb. 5. Within a few hours, Brenda got a message from her: Someone had apparently taken Marbella's phone and sent out messages impersonating her.

"We knew it wasn't her when I first read a message I got," Brenda said. "It said, 'I feel bad, I'm going to see the dr,' and my sister doesn't write that way."

Marbella had grown up in a Tijuana orphanage and Messick paid her rent and ensured she went to school. In return, he expected she would go to church and not allow any men, even him, into her apartment.

Juan had started pursuing Marbella, a 20-year-old law student, since mid-2019, targeting her mainly at her day job as a pump attendant at an all-female gas station in Tijuana.

He had been trying to win Marbella's trust for months, giving her chocolate, flowers, stuffed animals and other gifts.

"I would ask her and she just kind of laughed it off, she didn't really take it seriously," Messick said. "I'm like, 'Are you interested in this guy?' And she's like, 'Oh no, of course not.' ... Constantly there was more stuff in her apartment, and like a giant teddy bear. She just always laughed it off. She thought it was hilarious, and thought it was not a big deal."

Juan would show up to the gas station where she worked, and bring breakfast to all Marbella's co-workers.

That seemed harmless enough: "He would try to win everybody over, everybody thought he was great," Messick said.

But a more sinister side gradually emerged. Messick said Juan seemed always to know where Marbella was. After his arrest, police found a GPS locating device to Marbella's car, and Messick said he believed the man may have taken a copy of the keys to her apartment. Marbella disappeared on Feb. 5 and her family quickly managed to get into her

messaging accounts. They were later able use them to determine her location after she disappeared, which matched Juan's location.

"This guy Juan, when we hacked her WhatsApp account, he noticed," Messick recalled.

"He called and said, 'Oh, this is interesting, her WhatsApp account is active.'"

It wasn't like, 'Oh my God, she's connected.' It was like, 'No, it's interesting.' ... And like 2 hours later, that's when her body showed up. I think he realized we were on to him."

The suspect once reportedly worked as a sort of civilian intern for a police forensic office and liked to present himself as a former cop, though he never was one. He also approached police to find out information on their investigation of Marbella's death, according to prosecutors quoted by the newspaper *El Imparcial*.

State prosecutors said they had more evidence when they arrested Juan on Feb. 21, including GPS location data from his phone showing he had been with Marbella after she disappeared and his DNA was found under the dead woman's fingernails.

For three days after her disappearance, relatives had been telling police they suspected Juan of taking her; Brenda believes that if they had searched Juan's house, they could have found her alive. "I told them, if you had acted, my sister might still be alive," Brenda said.

"The level of suffering is so many degrees, it's so painful," Messick said, days after the initial arraignment. "The guy was smiling at the hearing." □

**Associated Press**

## Brazil death toll in Amazon-area boat accident rises to 13

**By DAVID BILLER Associated Press**

A total of 13 bodies have been recovered since a passenger boat accident on a tributary of the Amazon in northern Brazil, officials said Monday, and more were feared dead. The Anna Karoline III boat was transporting dozens of people when it sank on Saturday on a remote stretch of the Jari River. The Amapa state govern-

ment said in a statement published early Monday that authorities have found the bodies of five men and eight women, including three girls under 11 years old.

Amapa and neighboring Para state have deployed four aircraft and two boats to search for others. Forty-six people were rescued. Brazil's Navy has opened an investigation into the accident. □



## LOCAL



## Eva Schloss impressed Aruba in a full house Hilton ballroom: She made you see World War II through the eyes of a Jewish girl

**PALM BEACH —** Eva Schloss is a holocaust survivor and step sister of Anne Frank. She was in Aruba where she shared her life story with a couple hundreds people in a packed ballroom of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. The night was organized by Chabad Jewish Center Aruba. "I share my story with the world to create awareness and give knowledge about what the holocaust is." You could have heard a pin drop during her presentation.

The event was sold out, and the great thing was that many teens were present, a sign that parents strive to educate their children about a part of history we must-never-forget. The emcee Ruben Garcia did a great job and the speech by our Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes was powerful, empathic and thankful. "We are honored to be able to hear you share your life with us," she said to Eva and also referred to the upcoming International Day of Women, where she sees Eva as an example to the empowerment of women.

Rabbi Ahron Blasberg of Chabad Aruba introduced his wife Chaya as the interviewer of Eva. While the two sat down in comfortable sofa chairs, Eva took the public to another place. The world of a young Jewish girl in Austria who had to flee, with her parents and brother to Amsterdam when Hitler invaded their country. In Amsterdam, she met Anne Frank and her family and the two became close friends. It did not last for long, because the Nazis entered the Netherlands and from there the horror started. She paints a picture of the fears, the insecurities and the emotions of a young girl in the time of war and persecu-



tion of Jewish people. The audience barely moved, anxious to hear what came next. Of course, we all hoped for a happy ending. Alas there are none in war time, there is only losing. That was also Eva's answer to one of the three local students that asked: "Was

there anything positive within the concentration camp life?" Eva: "Nothing. There was no fun. It was surviving day by day while suffering."

The impactful evening made one realize that there is no way you can imagine how it was for real. When Eva talked you imagined the streets of Amsterdam, the hiding places, the horrible trains that took them to Auschwitz with one bucket drinking water and one bucket to urinate for 80 people, the huge

camp where Nazi colonel Mengele separated what he deemed, the weak from the strong, the illnesses in the barracks, the hunger and cold and, the unknown. You imagined, but you can never feel what they felt. And that exactly is why this evening was so important. We must prevent anyone from going through this again. Eva dedicates herself to holocaust education and global peace, and is the perfect person to do that. She wishes Aruba preserves their multicultural treasures and openness towards each other. "You have all these different people living together here without problems. You see, it can be done. As long as we strive for that." Life is precious and fragile, but the creative spirit is stronger than fear, the power of good is immeasurable, and love makes a difference.

Eva has spoken on more than one thousand speaking engagements. She has written two books and has had a play written about her life. In 1999 Eva signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raul Wallenberg, a legendary figure who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest. □







Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Quiripa, Indian button, Dutch pipes, fish bones and shells

Episode LVIII - (58)

**ORANJESTAD** — Since prehistoric times many things were used to make jewelry and ornaments. The existence of man and his participation in the manufacture of tribal objects was spiritually essential. The purpose of these objects was to give a sense of distinction. Since ancient times there was an incessant demand to satisfy the social group's request.



**Pic. 1 Native necklace made out of composed materials**

These artistic creations worked as a medal of bravery for a warrior, as a symbol of recognition and also as a magic totem for shamans and clan leaders, a talisman to drive away omens and bad spells. Others promoted physical recuperation or spiritual healing and spread powers of body cleansing. However, they were always considered as symbols of political status and valued as a commercial article.

In Aruba, fish bones, sea shells and feathers were used to make these types of objects but only a few kind of white seashell were considered in the fabrication of quiripa.

Quiripa's were mostly circular in shape and had a central perforation where a string could be passed through. This was in order to make chokers or necklaces in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Diameter of a single quiripa could be from 2mm while other could be as big as 10 cm.

During one of many expeditions we held, accompanied by late Dutch Archeologist Dr. Eb Boerstra we had stumbled upon a place where broken Strombus shells were abundant. Strombus shells were often used for the manufacturing of various decorative and ceremonial ornaments. Some of the elaborated Strombus shells that we have discovered were zoomorphic in shape. One was in the form of daggers and some had one or more perforations, while others were not yet finished or drilled. Contemporary Aruban natives call the circular made Strombus shell, "boton di Indjan" because of their similarity to

clothing buttons. These shell buttons or quiripa were found in large numbers during an archaeological rescue excavation in the Santa Cruz district of Aruba. They should know that Santa Cruz was a very important settlement during the Aruba Ceramic Period and a highly organized community.

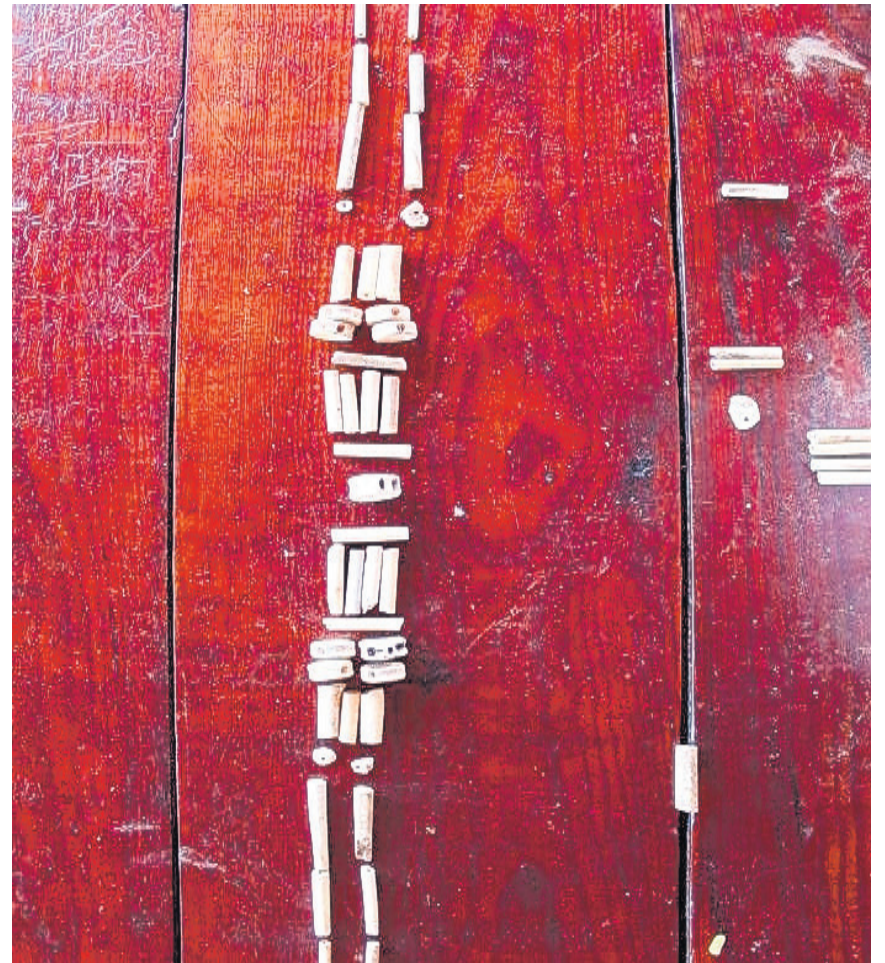
The remarkable thing is that different cultures from around the world continue to use these objects with the similar purposes with which our ancestors used to do it.

We also know that the land shells of the Bulimulus snail genus were used by the natives of Texas to make necklaces; Stillman Berry, an American marine zoologist, records a necklace of land shells of the Oreohelix yavapai species made by Javasupai natives from the Coconino county in Arizona. These types of land shells are difficult to obtain and are even more delicate to work into jewelry.

On the island of Pascua or Easter Island in Chile, its inhabitants are reminded of Polynesian customs and when they say goodbye to their acquaintances they do so by giving them a shell necklace that recalls the lei garland of the Hawaiians.

In Africa the Wodaabe produce bracelets with Cypraea shells and in Mauritania the shells are used as jewelry by women.

The shells have been and continue to be inspirational objects for handicrafts since the time of the Incas and Egyptians.



Continued on Page 15



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## Quiripa, Indian button, Dutch pipes, fish bones and shells

*Episode LVIII - (58)*

Continued from Page 14

After the arrival of Europeans other materials were incorporated in their elaborations of jewelry, like glazed ceramic fragments, glass and tubular fragments of white or red ceramic Tabaco pipes and Dutch Gouda pipes. These broken pipe parts were used as for beads in pendants and bracelets. These were already perforated, since the pipe air intake served as an easily string pass through.

In 1985 during an intern archaeological field expedition a great quantity of broken Dutch pipes were discovered at Wela, a place situated east of Frenchman pass. Many broken fragments of these small tubular shaped ceramic pipes were found just on the surface of the land and some still had the tabaco holding cavity in tack. A complete necklace made out of Dutch pipes was found. These pipes were common in places that functioned as trade settlements with native communities. Many of these pipes were also found around Alto Vista Chapel area at the Northside of the island and many other places of the island. Natives knew very well how to use, reuse or recycle everything they had and produced almost no waste at all. □

To immerse in what Aruba is all about, its people, its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit to our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining curious, scientist and bohemians for decades. Mail us at [etnianaativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianaativa03@gmail.com) to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.





## Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba joins in on the observation of “World Wildlife Day 2020”

**ORANJESTAD —** The United Nations World Wildlife Day is a global celebration of the beautiful and richly diverse forms of wild animals and plants on our planet. It is also an occasion to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits they provide to people and to drive discussions and work towards transformative change on the urgent threats facing them. World Wildlife Day takes place annually on 3 March.

This year, World Wildlife Day will be celebrated under the theme of “Sustaining all life on Earth”. The aim is to stress wild animal and plant species as an important component of biodiversity and their importance to people, especially those who live closest to nature and depend on them for their livelihoods.

However, unsustainable human activities and over-



exploitation of the species and natural resources that make up the habitats and ecosystems of all wildlife are imperiling the world's biodiversity. Nearly a quar-

ter of all species are presently at risk of going extinct in the coming decades, and their demise would only speed up the disappearance of countless oth-

ers, putting us in danger as well.

Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) also joins in on the observation of this day. On Aruba we also have our challenges, such as habitat destruction, unsustainable human impact, and invasive species. FPNA is a conservation organization that manages Parke National Arikok, Ramsar Site Spaans Lagoen and Parke Marino Aruba. FPNA has different conservation programs with a focus on our endemic species as a way to conserve the richness in biodiversity that inhabit our protected areas. Some programs that the Research & Conservation Department is currently busy with: Shoco Conservation Program, Mangrove Workshop and Bird Monitoring. The shoco conservation program aims to analyze their habitat and assist the specie with the cre-

ation of artificial burrows where they can relocate or establish themselves to prosper and procreate. The Mangrove Workshop's main aim is to educate our younger generation on their importance in regards to the marine ecosystems. Lastly, the Bird Monitoring Program is a recent addition to the conservation efforts where our rangers will play an essential part in collecting data in order to analyze the different bird species we have in the protected areas on the island and also to measure the conservation actions that need to consider their habitat. It is of great importance for the community to be more conscious of their impact on our environment and realize that our existence is strongly dependent on nature. Together we can protect our environment! Happy World Wildlife Day 2020. □



**PALM BEACH —**24-hour bonus, what do you do with that extra time? The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino made it a magical Intercalary Day last Saturday with a six-course culinary experience with complimentary wine pairing.

### ‘Go bonanza’ was the credo!

The signature of the evening was the enthusiastic kitchen crew and waiters. The dynamics of the service made a difference and added fun to the experience. But, of course the food and wine form the core and it must be said: they matched the ambience and lived up to the expectations of Sunset Grille's standard. Divino's top sommelier, Kiume Tjon-A-Tsien, just won the Sommelier of the Year competition and we know why. He paired with perfection and talked with great flow. The evening turned out to be tasteful, fun, entertaining, in short: bonanza for the inner spirit!

Applause for the menu created by French & American-trained Executive Chef Matt Boland, and French born Katia Soujol, Executive Sous Chef:

Fresh Grouper Ceviche, paired with Matua Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand; Escargot & Shrimp swimming in Garlic Butter, Herbs, with Focaccia, complemented by Beringer Regional Estates Chardonnay, Napa Valley, California; Gnocchi Mushroom butter, paired with Elouan Pinot Noir, Oregon; Lamb Chop on a bed of Couscous, Green Peppercorn sauce, with Elouan Pinot Noir, Oregon; Braised Beef Slider Chipotle Mayo, Gouda Cheese, Sweet Potato Fries, and Caribbean Slaw paired with Beringer Bros, Red Blend, Aged in Bourbon Barrels, California. Closure: traditional Apple Tart Tartin Crème Anglaise, with Ice Cream served for dessert and matched with Madiki Breeze Cocktail Invented by the resort's very own master bartender Gaby, made with Tito's Vodka, Disaronno Amaretto, and splashes of Pineapple and Orange Juice.

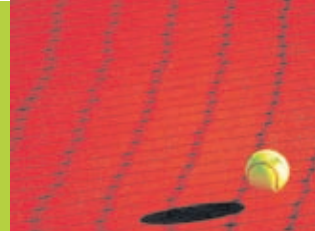
Hopefully we do not need to wait another four year for this feast but that only Hilton will know. □

## Culinary magic appeared at Intercalary Day





# SPORTS



Deontay Wilder arrives in the ring for a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match against Tyson Fury, of England, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

## A hot summer ahead for boxing's heavyweight division

By TIM DAHLBERG

Boxing's heavyweight division will be heating up even further this summer, highlighted by a third fight between Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder and Anthony Joshua defending his belts against Kubrat Pulev in London. Joshua and Pulev will go first, meeting June 20 in the first boxing bouts at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Joshua, who reclaimed his piece of the heavyweight title in December against Andy Ruiz Jr., will be fighting at home in England for the first time in two years. The date for Fury and Wilder is more fluid, though promoter Bob Arum said he is looking at July 18 at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas. That's where Fury stopped Wilder in the seventh round last month of their title rematch in a dominating performance that cemented his status on top of the heavyweight division.

Continued on Page 18

# CHECK MATE



## Blue Jackets rally past Canucks 5-3 to aid wild card push

Columbus Blue Jackets' Vladislav Gavrikov, left, of Russia, checks Vancouver Canucks' Zack MacEwen during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press  
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# Pinturault wins GS to take World Cup lead from Kilde

**HINTERSTODER, Austria (AP)**

— Alexis Pinturault won a men's World Cup giant slalom on Monday for his second win in two days as the French skier returned to the top of the overall standings. Pinturault added 250 points to his tally over the three-day event in the Austrian Alps to overtake Aleksander Aamodt Kilde.

The Norwegian finished Monday's race in sixth and now trails Pinturault by 26 points with six races left on the calendar.

Kilde's Norwegian teammate Henrik Kristoffersen is third, 107 points behind Pinturault.

The intermediate lead in the overall standings could be essential with the remainder of the World Cup season in doubt because of possible travel restrictions regarding the spread of the virus in Europe.

The men's World Cup has further stops scheduled in Norway and Slovenia ahead of the March 16-22 finals in Italy.

"I had to earn as many points as possible this week-



France's Alexis Pinturault competes in an alpine ski, men's World Cup giant slalom, in Hinterstoder, Austria, Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

end regarding the next races," said Pinturault, referring to this weekend's downhill and super-G, events which would usually suit speed specialist Kilde better.

"We will see what happens with the virus but I have done my best," said Pinturault, who considered a rare start in the downhill on Saturday to protect his overall lead.

Pinturault finished fourth in a super-G on Saturday and dominated an Alpine combined event the following

day. He won two giant slaloms on consecutive days when the World Cup last visited the Austrian resort four years ago.

"Winning four races from six starts here is very special, that is sensational," Pinturault said.

Having carved out a lead of 0.90 seconds over Philip Zubcic in the opening run, Pinturault lost half of his advantage over his Croatian competitor as he posted only the 21st-fastest time in the final run. □

# Dustin Johnson decides against playing in the Olympics

**By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer**

On the fence about the Olympics at the start of the year, Dustin Johnson decided he won't be going. Johnson's manager said in a text message Monday that the FedEx Cup playoffs hold as much importance to Johnson as chasing a gold medal in Tokyo this summer.

"I feel certain he would choose otherwise if the timing were different, but feels he is making the best decision under the circumstances," said David Winkle of Hambric Sports Management.

Johnson's name was removed from the Olympic golf ranking Monday afternoon. At No. 5 in the world ranking, he currently would have been No. 3 among Americans behind Brooks Koepka and Justin Thomas. Countries are allowed a maximum of four players in golf provided they are among the top 15 in the world ranking.

Golfweek first reported Johnson's decision.

Johnson was the leading American for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro when he decided at the last minute to withdraw because of concerns over the Zika virus.

This was more about the FedEx Cup and the lucrative prize Johnson has yet to win. The top prize is now worth \$15 million.

Asked about the Olympics at the beginning of the year, Johnson said he wasn't sure how his schedule would be in the summer with the Tokyo Games coming after the final major and before the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"Having had a few close calls in the playoffs, he really wants to win them before his time is done and feels that he wouldn't be giving himself the best opportunity to do so if he added a lengthy international trip," Winkle said.

Johnson plans to play five out of seven weeks through the British Open. He then would have a week off before heading to Japan for the Olympics. □

**Continued from page 17**

"Nothing is set in stone but that's certainly the date we're talking about," Arum said Monday. "We have to meet with the Wilder camp and everybody else and zero in on it, but right now that's the date we're looking at."

Promoter Eddie Hearn announced the Joshua-Pulev fight on Monday, with Joshua meeting the once-beaten Bulgarian before what is expected to be 70,000 fans at the new stadium.

"A spectacular stadium has been built in north London and I'm honored to bring the boxing community from all over the world to witness us make history with the stadium's first heavyweight world title fight," Joshua said. "The belts go back up in the air and nothing will stop me from being victorious."

Joshua will defend his piece of the heavyweight title

against Pulev, whose only loss was to former champion Wladimir Klitschko nearly 5 1-2 six years ago. It will be the second try at a world title by Pulev, who has won eight straight since being stopped by Klitschko.

Arum, who promotes Pulev as well as Fury, said the two fights could lead to a heavyweight unification fight by the end of the year. "What we're trying to do is by the end of the year in some manner, shape or form, have a unified heavyweight champion," Arum said. "One champion for the entire division. It would certainly help the image of boxing."

Fury, who is unbeaten in 31 fights, staked his claim to being the best heavyweight around when he knocked down Wilder twice before stopping him in the seventh round in Las Vegas. The fight was a rematch of their first meet-



Tyson Fury, of England, knocks down Deontay Wilder during a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ing in December 2018 that ended in a draw.

Wilder had 30 days under the contract between the two boxers to formally ask for a third fight with Fury. Wilder blamed the weight of a costume he wore into the ring for taking away his legs in that fight and said

his corner should have never thrown in the towel in the seventh round to end the bout.

Wilder told The Associated Press last week that he had no intention of delaying a third fight and wanted it as soon as possible.

"I'm a warrior and I'm

ready to go again, but we're going to change a lot of things in camp," Wilder said. Arum said the economics of a third fight make sense, even if some in boxing believe the second fight under-performed in pay-per-view sales. The fight drew a record heavyweight title gate of \$17.9 million and Arum said he believes the pay-per-view sales will hit 1.1 million when all are tallied up.

"A lot of people say a third fight won't do as well and a lot of people say it will be bigger," Arum said. "Who really knows?"

Joshua, meanwhile, returns home after losing his titles in a huge upset last June to Ruiz. He won them back by out-boxing Ruiz in their rematch in December in Saudi Arabia. Pulev was originally supposed to fight Joshua in October 2017 but was forced to withdraw because of injury. □



# Flyers' winning streak hits 6 with win over Rangers

**By The Associated Press**

Carter Hart made 23 saves and the surging Philadelphia Flyers extended their winning streak to a season-high six games with a 5-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

Matt Niskanen, Sean Couturier and Travis Konecny each scored power-play goals. Michael Raffl scored short-handed and Derek Grant also tallied for the Flyers, who swept a home-and-home series against the Rangers after winning 5-2 on Friday night.

The Flyers' run combined with the Penguins' six-game slide has moved Philadelphia into second place in the Metropolitan Division.

Henrik Lundqvist made his first start since Feb. 3 and made 21 saves for New York.

Mika Zibanejad scored two power-play goals and Pavel Buchnevich also tallied on the man advantage for the Rangers. Zibanejad has a career-high 32 goals on the season.

## **CAPITALS 4, WILD 3**

ST. PAUL, Minn (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored twice as part of a three-point night and the Washington Capitals

ended a four-game road slide by holding off the Wild.

Richard Panik and Tom Wilson also scored, Evgeny Kuznetsov had two assists, and Braden Holtby stopped 37 shots for his fourth straight victory. Washington moved into a tie with Colorado for the league lead with 22 road wins.

Ryan Donato, Kevin Fiala and Zach Parise scored for the Wild.

Alex Stalock made 26 saves, but Minnesota lost for the first time in four games and remains one point behind Nashville, Winnipeg and Arizona for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

## **KINGS 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Anze Kopitar scored twice, rookie Calvin Petersen made 42 saves and Los Angeles improved to 6-2-1 in its last nine games.

The Kings, in last place in the Pacific Division, snapped Vegas' franchise record-tying eight-game win streak. The Golden Knights hadn't lost since a 4-0 defeat in Minnesota on Feb. 11.

Petersen, who improved



Los Angeles Kings center Anze Kopitar (11) scores on Vegas Golden Knights goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury (29) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

to 2-0-0 against Vegas, was brilliant in stifling the Golden Knights' normally potent offense that clearly was missing Mark Stone, who is week-to-week with a lower-body injury. Of his 42 stops, 19 came in the third period.

Trevor Lewis and Alex Lafalo also scored for the Kings. Shea Theodore scored for

Vegas, while Marc-Andre Fleury made 13 saves.

## **DEVILS 3, DUCKS 0**

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Pavel Zacha scored two power-play goals and Cory Schneider made 34 saves for his first shutout in more than a year to lift New Jersey to the win.

Nico Hischier had a goal, Nikita Gusev had an assist

to extend his point streak to six games, and the Devils extended their streak of games earning a point to six. New Jersey is 4-0-2 in that span, matching a 3-0-3 stretch from Jan. 27-Feb. 8 as its longest of the season. Schneider's shutout was the 26th of his career, and his first since Feb. 21, 2019, against Ottawa. □

# Zamboni driver unlikely to spur NHL to change goalie rule

**By TIM REYNOLDS**

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)** — NHL general managers seem unlikely to suggest changes to the emergency backup goaltender policy, even after 42-year-old Zamboni driver David Ayres became one of the biggest stories of the season by winning a game for Carolina last month.

The issue was among the discussion points Monday, the first of three days of GM meetings, but the apparent consensus was that emergency goaltenders are called upon so rarely that any reaction now would likely feel like an overreaction.

"It's such a rare occurrence," Vegas general manager Kelly McCrimmon said. "It's only news because

it recently happened."

Ayres became a sensation last month when he was called on by the Hurricanes in a game at Toronto after injuries to Carolina goalies Petr Mrazek and James Reimer. Ayres stopped eight shots and became the first emergency goalie in NHL history credited with a victory.

Under NHL rules, when a team's two goalies are hurt or otherwise incapacitated the club "shall be entitled to dress and play any available goalkeeper who is eligible." In Carolina's case, that became Ayres, who often gets on the ice at Leafs practices when the team needs an extra goalie.

"We're comfortable with the way that it is," McCrim-

mon said.

Winnipeg general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said he originally wasn't planning to watch that Carolina-Toronto game on TV, flipping to it only when word broke that a Zamboni driver was in net.

Like other GMs who spoke Monday, Cheveldayoff indicated he likes the rule as is.

"A lot of guys have played college or junior," Cheveldayoff said. "Being in the market that we're in, we have certainly an opportunity to have lots of players that fit that criteria. In some places, there are tryouts. ... Fortunately in Winnipeg, we have a lot of former college players and the like." Florida general manager Dale Tallon has been



Toronto Maple Leafs left wing Pierre Engvall (47) scores his team's third goal of the game against Carolina Hurricanes emergency goalie David Ayres (90) during second-period NHL hockey game action in Toronto, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

Associated Press

through the emergency situation a couple of times in recent years — once with the team on the cusp of putting goaltender coach Robb Tallon into a game, another three years ago where a team account executive was summoned. Neither got into the game. And while Tallon said he was nervous for Ayres on

his big night, he also wasn't inclined to call for change. "The better team won that game. That's the reality of that night," Tallon said. "It happened to us three years ago. Three times it's happened in 50 years. Do you change the whole thing? ... I think we did a good job of fixing it and it turned out for the better." □



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

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## Pass-rusher Ngakoue no longer wants to re-sign with Jaguars

By **MARK LONG**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)**

— Standout defensive end Yannick Ngakoue no longer wants to sign a long-term deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Ngakoue announced his desire to play elsewhere via social media Monday, a move that could force Jacksonville to place the franchise tag on the 24-year-old disgruntled defender and trade him.

"The Jaguars are aware I no longer have interest in signing a long term contract in Jacksonville," Ngakoue posted on Twitter and Instagram. "Duval, I love you and gave you guys everything I got. I'm thankful for the journey and look forward to continuing my career elsewhere."

Ngakoue has 37 1/2 sacks and 14 forced fumbles in four seasons. The speedy strip-sack specialist made the Pro Bowl in 2017 and was an alternate the last



In this Oct. 27, 2019, file photo, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Yannick Ngakoue (91) rushes New York Jets offensive tackle Chuma Edoga during the first half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

two seasons.

A third-round draft pick from Maryland in 2016, Ngakoue clearly outplayed his \$3.84 million rookie contract. He made \$2.025 million in 2019 — far less than other top playmakers at his position.

He had been seeking around \$22 million a year to remain in Jacksonville, but

the Jaguars don't seem to consider him a complete or elite defensive end worthy of that much annually. Jacksonville also selected Ngakoue's potential replacement, Josh Allen from Kentucky, with the seventh overall pick in the 2019 NFL draft. Allen had 44 tackles, 10 1/2 sacks and two forced fumbles as a rookie

and made the Pro Bowl as an alternate.

Jacksonville is expected to place the franchise tag on Ngakoue, a move that would guarantee him more than \$19 million in 2020. But he also could refuse to sign the tender, essentially forcing a trade.

"There's still a process that needs to be played, but I think you guys know how we feel about him and we want him here," Jaguars general manager Dave Caldwell said at the NFL combine last week. "We're going to try to get him here and keep him here one way or another. So I think I'll leave it at that."

If the Jaguars end up trading Ngakoue, they would be left with few pieces from their dynamic defense that carried the team to the AFC championship game in January 2018.

Defensive end Calais Campbell, cornerback A.J. Bouye and linebacker Myles

Jack remain. But there are no guarantees Campbell and Bouye will stick around since they would count nearly \$33 million combined against the salary cap next season.

Cornerback Jalen Ramsey and defensive end Dante Fowler were traded in separate deals to the Los Angeles Rams. Safety Tashaun Gipson and defensive tackle Malik Jackson were released before the 2019 season in a cost-saving move.

Linebacker Telvin Smith abruptly quit the team last May to "get my world in order" and eventually filed retirement paperwork to avoid mounting fines.

And Jacksonville recently declined to pick up a team option in defensive tackle Marcell Dareus' contract, saving \$19.5 million against the cap in 2020. Dareus will still count \$2.5 million against the cap in dead money. □



# LeBron James has triple-double, Lakers beat Pelicans 122-114

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — LeBron James had 34 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame Anthony Davis' absence and Zion Williamson's highest-scoring game to beat the New Orleans Pelicans 122-114 on Sunday night.

Williamson finished with 35 points, but his largely productive and highlight-filled night was marred somewhat by six turnovers.

Kyle Kuzma scored 20 points, hitting a 3-pointer that put the Lakers up 113-109 with 3:40 to go. The Lakers gradually pulled away after that, aided by James' 3 with 2:27 left.

Davis, who spent the first seven of his eight seasons with New Orleans, sat out with a sore right knee, one night after playing in the Lakers' 105-88 loss at Memphis. He was on the bench in street clothes and routinely reacted to the action on the court by springing out of his seat and standing on the sideline.

Lonzo Ball had 19 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for New Orleans.

## BUCKS 93, HORNETS 85

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 41 points, 20 rebounds and six assists and Milwaukee beat Charlotte for its sixth straight victory.

Brook Lopez added 16 points and seven rebounds for the NBA-leading Bucks. They've won 20 of their last 22 games and to improve to 52-8.

Antetokounmpo scored in almost every way imaginable — on pick-and-rolls, fast-break dunks, fade-away jumpers and from the foul line.

Antetokounmpo finished a rebound short of his career high. The Bucks outrebounded the Hornets 61-47.

Devonte Graham had 17 points for Charlotte.

## CLIPPERS 136, 76ERS 130

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kawhi Leonard scored 30 points, Paul George added 24 and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia to extend its winning streak to four.

Reserves Montrezl Harrell and Lou Williams also had 24 points. The Clippers — who shot 59.2% from the field — trailed by two at halftime but took control in the third quarter, outscoring the Sixers 38-24.

Shake Milton led Philadelphia with 39 points, hitting seven 3-pointers. The first-year guard had 26 points in the first half, which tied a team season high. Former Clippers forward Tobias Harris had 25 points and Alec Burks 15.

## MAVERICKS 111, TIMBERWOLVES 91

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Kristaps Porzingis had a season-high 38 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Seth Curry scored 27 points and Dallas rolled past Minnesota with Mavericks star Luka Dončić sitting out with a left thumb sprain.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 19 points to help the Mavericks



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots as New Orleans Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday (11) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

win for the third time in four games.

D'Angelo Russell had 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota. The Timberwolves lost for the 20th time in 22 games.

## NUGGETS 133, RAPTORS 118

**DENVER (AP)** — Nikola Jokić had 23 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists for his 12th triple-double of the season to lead Denver past short-handed Toronto.

Jokić has 43 triple-doubles in his short career, completing his latest by feeding Jerami Grant on a dunk that helped the Nuggets the defending champion Raptors their third straight loss.

Grant finished with 16 points, Toronto played without Serge Ibaka and Fred VanVleet for a second straight game, but got a career night from OG Anunoby. He had 32 points on 12-of-16 shooting.

## WIZARDS 124, WARRIORS 110

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Bradley Beal had 34 points, eight assists and a season-best five steals and Washington won at Golden State for the first time in six years. Beal has scored at least 25 points in a franchise-record 18 straight games.

Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points for Golden State. The Warriors have lost nine

straight at home.

## KINGS 106, PISTONS 100

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — De'Aaron Fox scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Sacramento overcame a 17-point deficit to beat Detroit.

Buddy Hield added 19 points, Bogdan Bogdanović scored 15 and Harrison Barnes had 10 points and eight rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings have won four of five since the All-Star break.

Christian Wood had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Pistons. They lost point guard Derrick Rose to an apparent ankle injury in the first quarter. □

# Russia athletics admits wrongdoing in fake documents case

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia's track and field federation says it has admitted wrongdoing after being accused of supplying fake documents to give a top athlete an alibi for missing drug testing.

Ahead of the Olympics, the admission could help end a standoff between Russian track officials and their counterparts at World Athletics. A scheme allowing top Russians to compete internationally as neutral

athletes is currently frozen, leaving them in limbo.

Russia has been suspended by World Athletics since 2015 over widespread doping, and was threatened with expulsion after the federation and seven individuals were charged over the documents in November.

The case relates to high jumper Danil Lysenko, who was charged by the Athletics Integrity Unit in 2018 with repeatedly failing to

be available for drug testing. The federation, known as RusAF, allegedly helped him file forged documents purporting to be from a medical clinic.

New federation president Yevgeny Yurchenko said in a statement, "I have fully accepted the charges" against the federation "related to the actions of the previous leadership in the Lysenko case." Yurchenko said the federation apologizes for its conduct. □



Yevgeny Yurchenko speaks during a news conference after being elected as the new President of the Russian Athletics Federation in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press





Seattle Sounders forward Jordan Morris, left, heads in the winning goal as Chicago Fire goalkeeper Kenneth Kronholm, second from right, lunges for the ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Seattle. The Sounders won 2-1.

Associated Press

## Defending champion Sounders beat Fire 2-1 in opener

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Jordan Morris scored two second-half goals, the second in the third minute of stoppage time, and the Seattle Sounders opened their MLS Cup defense with a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Fire on Sunday.

Seattle started the day parading the MLS championship trophy through the streets and unveiling its second championship banner. But much of the opener had been a frustrating mix of being outplayed for stretches and missing several easy opportunities at goal.

Morris was the difference after coming on as a substitute at halftime. His goal in the 62nd minute off a cross from Cristian Roldan pulled Seattle even. The two connected again in stoppage time. Off a corner kick from João Paulo, Roldan whipped a header across the front of goal and Morris was standing at the back post to nod it home.

Robert Berić scored in the 46th minute for Chicago. The Fire, in their first game under coach Raphael Wicky, had two first-half goals waved off because of offside. Seattle also had a goal in the 56th minute overturned on video replay

after Morris was ruled off-side.

Many of the 40,126 that eventually filled CenturyLink Field marched to the stadium before the match with the championship trophy leading the way, and reveled in the celebration and memories of the title won 3 1/2 months earlier in the same stadium with a victory over Toronto.

### **LOS ANGELES FC 1, INTER MIAMI 0**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Carlos Vela scored on a beautiful chip shot shortly before halftime and Los Angeles FC beat Inter Miami in the inaugural game for owner David Beckham's MLS expansion team.

Vela controlled the ball with his chest and eluded four defenders before chipping a perfect shot over Miami goalkeeper Luis Robles from the edge of the box. The 44th-minute goal decided the season opener for both teams.

Vela scored on his 31st birthday and dampened a celebratory day for Inter Miami, which joined the North American league along with Nashville SC this season as its 25th and 26th teams. Miami wore white jerseys with pale pink shorts for its first game, and its

new roster competed solidly against one of MLS' elite teams.

Beckham, the former LA Galaxy star, wore an Inter Miami team blazer as he watched the game from a luxury box at Banc of California Stadium along with wife Victoria and his ownership partners.

### **RED BULLS 3, FC CINCINNATI 2**

**HARRISON, N.J. (AP)** — Kyle Duncan and Kaku scored early goals and New York beat FC Cincinnati.

Duncan scored in the 16th minute, taking a soft pass from Florian Valot and punching it in as he ran down the left side of the box. Nine minutes later, Valot found Kaku at the center of the box and he tapped it in with his left foot. A minute into the second half, Allan Cruz took a centering pass from Brandon Vasquez to get Cincinnati on the board. Daniel Royer restored New York's two-goal advantage in the 70th minute.

Jurgen Locadia added a goal for Cincinnati.

### **MINNESOTA UNITED 3, TIMBERS 1**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Kevin Molino scored two goals and Minnesota United beat Portland. □



In this Oct. 24, 2019 file photo Atlanta United forward Josef Martinez (7) strikes a pose after scoring a goal in second half of an MLS Eastern Conference Semifinal playoff soccer match against the Philadelphia Union in Atlanta.

Associated Press

## Atlanta star Josef Martinez tears right ACL, set for surgery

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**  
AP Sports Writer

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Atlanta United star Josef Martinez will undergo surgery after tearing the ACL in his right knee during the season-opening match at expansion Nashville, dealing a huge blow to one of Major League Soccer's top teams.

United announced the diagnosis Sunday for the league's 2018 MVP but did not disclose if the anterior cruciate ligament was completely torn.

The seriousness of the injury will likely be known after Martinez has surgery. It can take anywhere from two to six months to recover from a torn ACL, which means the dynamic striker — one of the most prolific scorers in MLS history — might be able to return before the end of the season.

It could be next season before Martinez fully recaptures the form that carried him to a then-record 31 goals two seasons ago, when he led Atlanta United to the MLS Cup title. The mark was broken last season when Carlos Vela scored 34 goals for Los Angeles FC.

"Of course, you cannot replace Josef," Atlanta coach Frank de Boer said after Saturday night's 2-1 victory over Nashville. "Everybody knows that Josef,

when he's in form, he's the best in MLS. I work with him everyday in training. I see his quality. It's going to be a big loss."

With his fearless play in front of the net and ability to score with both feet and his head, the 26-year Venezuelan has tallied a staggering 77 goals in 84 MLS matches since entering the league for United's debut season in 2017. He had 27 goals in 29 regular-season matches last season.

Martinez quickly established himself as one of Atlanta's biggest stars, on par with leading athletes on more established teams. Recently, he was on hand to admire a new mural of him that was painted on a wall near Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

The injury also deals a severe blow to Atlanta's hopes of advancing in the CONCACAF Champions League. United won its opening-round series against Honduran club Motagua by a 4-1 aggregate, with Martinez scoring two goals.

Now, the team will have to search for a replacement as it prepares for a two-game quarterfinal series against Mexican stalwart América, which begins March 11 at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City before the return leg March 18 in suburban Atlanta. □



# Q&A: What's next for the Tokyo Olympics as virus spreads?

By STEPHEN WADE

**TOKYO (AP)** — The spreading virus from China has been reported in more than 60 countries and puts the Tokyo Olympics at risk. The Olympics are to open on July 24 — less than five months away. The Paralympics follow on Aug. 25.

IOC President Thomas Bach, in an interview last week limited to Japanese media, said the "IOC is fully committed to have the opening ceremony there on July 24th in Tokyo." He declined to speculate about a postponement, cancellation, or any combination of those possibilities.

Bach told the Japanese: "I'm not ready to add fuel to the flames of speculation there in any way."

Others are.

An Irish bookmaker last week began taking bets: 4/6 the opening ceremony will not go ahead in Tokyo as scheduled, or 11/10 that it will.

Senior IOC member Dick Pound last week suggested Tokyo and the IOC had roughly until the end of May to announce a decision. Pound, a former International Olympic Committee vice president, said there's no decision so far and stressed talks were nearly constant with the World Health Organization. He has characterized the virus as the "elephant" in the room, likening the fight against it to "the new war." "You just don't postpone something on the size and scale of the Olympics," Pound told the Associated Press. "There are so many moving parts; so many countries, so many different seasons and competitive seasons, television seasons. You can't say: 'We'll do it in October.' It's a big, big, big decision and you just can't take it until you have all the



In this Feb. 18, 2020, file photo, a man wearing a mask takes pictures of the mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo.

Associated Press

reliable facts on which to base it."

The virus has caused more than 3,000 deaths, the vast majority in China. Japan has reported 12 deaths with almost 1,000 cases.

## Q: WHAT'S THE NEXT THING TO WATCH?

**A:** Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto is holding a teleconference on Wednesday with the IOC executive board in Switzerland. The 14-member board along with Bach made the big decisions.

There could be changes to the torch relay, which is set to open March 26 in Fukushima prefecture, northeast of Tokyo. The event is heavily sponsored by Coca-Cola and Toyota. It might face crowd limits the way Sunday's Tokyo Marathon did. Preseason baseball games are being played in empty stadiums, soccer's J-League has suspended play, and a large Sumo event will be held without fans. Training for To-

kyo's 80,000 unpaid volunteers has been postponed until at least May.

A month ago, Muto said he was "seriously worried" by the spread of the virus. He has become more cautious with his words since then.

## Q: WHAT'S UP WITH THE TEST EVENTS?

**A:** There are 18 remaining test events. Many are small and involve only Japanese athletes, a chance for organizers to test venues and logistics. Two in the next several weeks are planned to have non-Japanese attending: Paralympic wheelchair rugby on March 12-15, and a gymnastics meet on April 4-6. They'll be watched to see if non-Japanese athletes compete.

Crowd restrictions could be put in place, although many don't call for fans in the first place.

## Q: WHAT ABOUT OLYMPIC QUALIFYING EVENTS?

**A:** Officials announced on

Monday that an Olympic baseball qualifying event was postponed from April to June. It will be held in Taiwan as scheduled, but on June 17-21 instead of April 1-5. The World Baseball Softball Conference said it was because of "player, personnel and spectator health and safety measures against the spread of the coronavirus."

Olympic qualifiers have been moved from China. Bach said that many Chinese teams and athletes are out of China and training elsewhere: the table tennis team is in Qatar, the women's basketball team is in Croatia, and wrestlers are in Serbia.

"We have managed to move qualification competitions and tournaments within weeks from China to other countries where the safety of the athletes could be ensured," Bach said.

## Q: IOC MEMBER POUND MENTIONED LATE MAY AS A DEADLINE. IS THAT FIRM?

**A:** Pound is a senior IOC member. But he was speaking as a rank-and-file member when he speculated that late May was a deadline to decide on Tokyo's future. The call will be made by the IOC executive board, the WHO, and local organizers.. It seems

reasonable that a decision will have to be made with two months to go.

The Olympics have thousands of moving parts. Sponsors who have paid billions must activate ad programs. More than 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 for the Paralympics have to know their training schedules. Add to that: flights, hotel reservations, catering, ticketing, and broadcast schedules. Almost 75% of the IOC's income of \$5.7 billion in a four-year cycle is from broadcast rights.

Tokyo is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a national audit board says it's twice that much.

Pound said all of the alternatives had major drawbacks: pushing the start back a few months, postponing until 2021, moving events to scattered venues or another city, or an outright cancellation. The modern Olympics dating from 1896 have been canceled three times during the two World Wars, and faced boycotts in 1976, 1980 and 1984.

## Q: WHAT IS THE MOOD IN JAPAN?

**A:** It's uncertain and stressful, prompting some fear and hoarding in shops. On the other hand, daily life seems about normal, perhaps with fewer commuters on Tokyo's trains and more people wearing masks.

The government has asked all schools to close for more than a month. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been criticized for getting started late fighting the virus. He announced a 270 billion yen (\$2.5 billion) emergency economic aid package on Saturday. He said the country was at a critical juncture to determine whether it can keep the outbreak under control ahead of the Olympics.

"Frankly speaking, this battle cannot be won solely by the efforts of the government," Abe said. "We cannot do it without understanding and cooperation from every one of you, including medical institutions, families, companies and local governments." □







This file photo combo shows the AT&T logo on the side of a corporate office in Springfield, Ill., left, and a DirectTV satellite dish atop a home in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## AT&T launches new online TV service as video customers fall

**NEW YORK (AP)** — AT&T is launching a new internet-delivered TV service Monday as it struggles with a shrinking DirecTV satellite business.

The new service, AT&T TV, will have most of the same channels offered on DirecTV, but it'll come over the internet rather than a satellite dish. AT&T has been testing the service in 13 markets and is now making it available to anyone.

AT&T will send subscribers an Android streaming-TV box to use the service. The free device will also come with Netflix and other streaming apps, the way Comcast's X1 cable box does. Additional boxes cost \$120.

The channel lineups and prices are comparable with what's available from DirecTV, but AT&T TV doesn't have NFL Sunday Ticket, a package of out-of-market football games.

The company is trying to adapt to the shift to streaming video, as subscribers to traditional cable and satellite TV services fall. In May, it's launching HBO Max, a \$15-a-month streaming service that will marry HBO shows with original programs and TV shows and movies from WarnerMedia. AT&T also has an online package that started as a cheaper service with fewer channels than a traditional bundle, but it is shedding

customers after price increases. AT&T is now trying to downplay that service in favor of the new AT&T TV. Customers don't need to be AT&T internet or wireless customers to sign up, although there are discounted packages available. And the company is promoting the service by saying it won't count against AT&T data caps. □



In this Sept. 16, 2016 file photo, a customer compares her iPhone 6, left, with an iPhone 7 at an Apple Store in Chicago.

Associated Press

## Apple to pay up to \$500M over battery-related phone slowdown

By **RACHEL LERMAN**  
AP Technology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — iPhone owners could get \$25 from Apple after the company agreed to pay up to \$500 million to settle claims over intentionally

slowing down older phones to preserve older batteries. Apple and lawyers representing iPhone consumers agreed to a deal stemming from Apple's 2017 admission that it was slowing down phone performance

in older models to avoid unexpected shutdowns related to battery fatigue.

That admission led to Apple offering discounted battery replacements at \$29, but many people claimed they had already spent hundreds of dollars to buy new phones because Apple didn't reveal the cause of the problem. If they had known they could just buy new batteries, they might not have bought new phones, some consumers in the case said.

Apple did not admit wrongdoing. As part of the settlement, the company will pay \$310 million to \$500 million, including about \$93 million to lawyers representing consumers.

iPhone users who were named in the class-action lawsuit will get up to \$3,500 each. The rest of the settlement money will be distributed to owners of iPhone 6, 6S, 7 and SE models who meet eligibility requirements related to the operating system they had running.

They must file claims to get the award. If too many people file, the \$25 amount could shrink.

A federal judge in San Jose, California, still needs to approve the settlement. □

## After damaging report, W.Va. moves away from voting app

By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**  
**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)**

— West Virginia is opting not to use a widely criticized voting app in the state's coming primary elections after a blistering report found potential security flaws in the platform. Donald Kersey, general counsel in the West Virginia Secretary of State's office, said Monday that an MIT analysis of the Voatz app "gave us enough pause" to instead use a different system for the May elections.

The decision came as state officials had to choose an online voting system to comply with a new law requiring electronic ballots for people with physical disabilities. Last month, an MIT study found that Voatz, which

has mostly been used for absentee ballots from overseas military personnel, has vulnerabilities that could allow hackers to change a person's vote without detection. The researchers said they were forced to reverse engineer an Android version of the app because the company hasn't allowed transparent third-party testing of the system.

The Voatz app was used to tally fewer than 200 ballots in West Virginia's 2018 elections and didn't have any problems, state officials said. The app has also been used in pilots in Denver, Oregon and Utah. The Boston-based Voatz has strongly disputed MIT's research methods, accusing the analysts of acting "in bad faith." The compa-

ny said the app hasn't had any reported issues over nine pilot elections.

Voting security experts have repeatedly argued that online voting is dangerously insecure. Few states are even considering it. Alaska in 2018 explored doing so but then decided against it.

After the release of the MIT report, officials in West Virginia were quick to point out that they hadn't yet decided to use the Voatz app for the state's new disability voting law in the coming primaries.

On Friday, the Secretary of State's office said it would use an electronic system from the company Democracy Live that will allow voters to fill out ballots online or have them printed out and mailed in. □



# Liz Weston: Unlock the debtor's prison of student loans

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Earlier this year, a judge denounced the myth that student loans can't be erased in bankruptcy court as she excused a Navy veteran from having to pay \$221,000 in education debt. Bankruptcy judge Cecilia G. Morris' decision garnered plenty of headlines, along with speculation that the ruling might make such discharges easier.

The battle isn't over, though. A few days later, Morris' ruling was appealed by the Education Credit Management Corporation, a nonprofit company that guarantees and services federal student loans for the U.S. Department of Education.

The reality is that getting student loans erased in bankruptcy, while technically possible, is so hard and expensive that few people try; even fewer succeed. Without intervention by Congress and a change of heart at the Education Department, struggling borrowers will continue to be trapped in a virtual debtor's prison: unable to pay what they owe and

unable to move on with their lives.

Taxpayer money is being wasted, as well. ECMC has a long history of aggressively opposing student loan discharges, even when there's little hope of recovering any money. Among other cases, ECMC has notoriously fought bankruptcy relief for a woman diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; a formerly homeless woman with mental illness subsisting on Social Security disability payments; and, in the case of Navy vet Kevin Rosenberg, the subject of Morris' ruling, a man whose basic living expenses exceeded his income.

Obviously, walking away from student loan debt should never be easy. But getting relief from unpayable education debt should never have become this hard.

That was the consensus of an expert group of bankruptcy judges, lawyers and scholars who studied the issue and made their recommendations public last year. The American Bankruptcy Institute's Commission on Consumer Bank-



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.  
Associated Press

ruptcy suggested changes judges could make to help more borrowers, but real reform will require new laws and a more sensible, cost-effective approach by the Education Department. Among the commission's recommendations:

## ALLOW PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS TO BE ERASED

Federal student loans are backed by taxpayer money, so it makes sense that they're harder to discharge than credit card debt or medical bills. But Congress extended the same status

to private student loans in 2005. Unlike federal student loans, private student loans are underwritten — which means the lenders assess borrowers' ability to repay, charge interest rates that reflect the risk of default and often require co-signers to guarantee repayment. Shielding private student loans in bankruptcy court may protect lender profits, but it's hard to make the case that doing so is somehow in the taxpayers' best interest. The commission recommends Congress change the law to allow private student loans, as well as loans taken out by parents and other relatives for their children, to be more easily erased.

## THE SEVEN-YEAR STANDARD SHOULD BE RESTORED

In 1976, Congress decided that overwhelmed borrowers could get their student loans wiped out in bankruptcy once five years had passed since the first payment was due. Debtors could get relief earlier if repayment represented an "undue hardship." In 1990, Congress lengthened the waiting period to seven years. □

# World economy may shrink because of virus, watchdog says

**PARIS (AP)** — A global agency says the spreading new virus could make the world economy shrink this quarter for the first time since the international financial crisis more than a decade ago.

In a special report on the impact of the virus, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Monday that the world economy is still expected to grow overall this year and rebound next year.

But the OECD lowered its forecasts for global growth in 2020 by half a percentage point, to 2.4% — and said the figure could go as low as 1.5% if the virus lasts long and spreads widely. In addition to the "considerable human suffering" the virus has wrought, with more than 3,000 deaths worldwide, the OECD said

"Global economic prospects remain subdued and very uncertain."

The last time the world economy shrank on a quarter-on-quarter basis was at the end of 2008, when a shock to the financial sector caused turmoil for businesses around the world and mass layoffs. On a full-year basis, it last shrank in 2009.

The OECD said China's reduced production is hitting Asia particularly hard but also companies around the world that depend on its goods.

It urged governments to act fast to prevent contagion and restore consumer confidence.

The Paris-based OECD, which advises developed economies on policy, said the impact of this virus is much higher than past outbreaks because "the glob-



A woman wearing a protective face mask talks on her phone at the Central Business District in Beijing, Monday, March 2, 2020.  
Associated Press

al economy has become substantially more interconnected, and China plays a far greater role in global output, trade, tourism and commodity markets."

China's viral outbreak has already disrupted global supply chains and cut business profits. And as the disease spreads, economists now worry about a

graver scenario: That quarantines and greater caution among consumers will lead people to cancel travel plans, skip restaurant meals, avoid stores or stay home from work.

Already the European Union's markets commissioner, Thierry Breton, estimated Monday that the virus has cost Europe 2 bil-

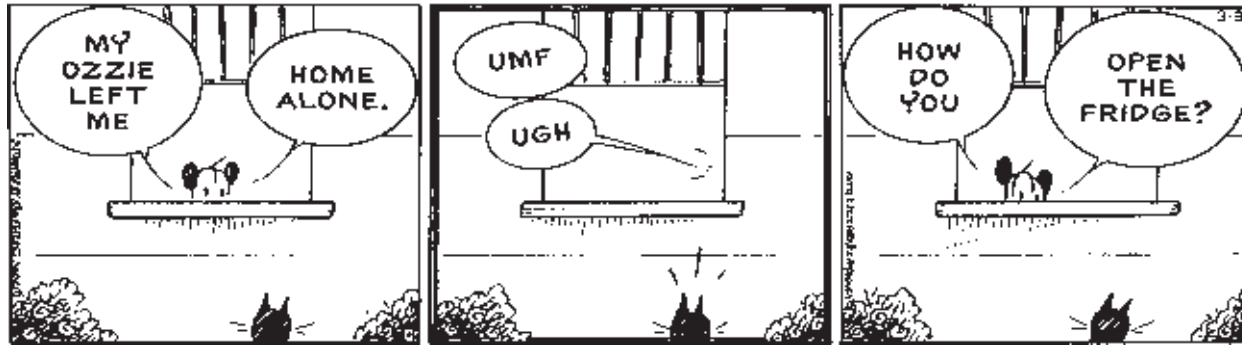
lion euros (\$2.2 billion) this year in tourism revenue alone, mainly because of the drop in number of Chinese tourists. Things are expected to get worse for Europe with the eruption of cases in northern Italy and the cancellation of events like the Venice Carnival.

Investors seem to expect central banks to come to the rescue by cutting interest rates, particularly in the U.S. But experts note that lower rates cannot fix the problem.

Lower rates can lead people and businesses to borrow and spend, which can boost economic activity. But they can't make sick people healthy, reopen factories whose workers are kept home because of quarantines or restart supply chains in areas of the world struck by the outbreak. □



**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 |   | 7 |   | 2 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 2 |   | 8 |   | 9 |   | 3 |
| 3 | 4 |   | 5 |   | 1 |   | 8 |   |
|   | 6 |   | 4 |   | 7 |   | 1 |   |
|   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |
| 9 |   |   | 7 |   | 4 |   |   | 5 |
|   | 3 |   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 |   |

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

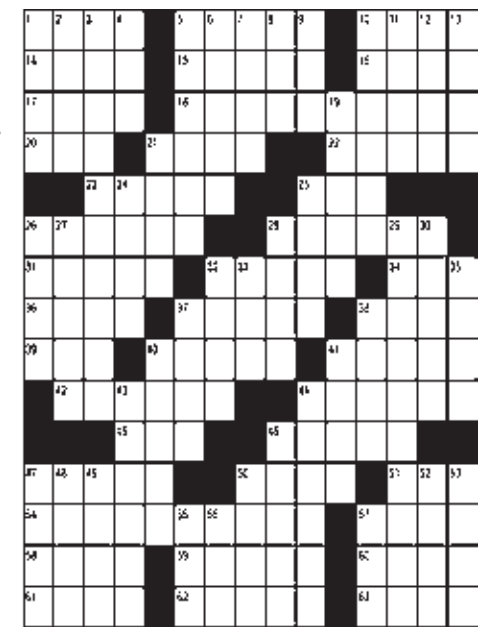
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 |

**ACROSS**

- Yusuf's jobs
- Letter oil
- Effective, profitable
- Early postcard
- Light, crinkled fabric
- Diamond Head's location
- Askew
- Punk
- Kids' running game
- The 'ne obeyed
- Valentine's day gift, perhaps
- 'Bye'
- Jet
- Boone or Day-Lewis
- Thick fruit juice
- Change a bit
- Stream
- Tennis court divider
- Vague rumor
- Cuzco
- Remain
- Caught a
- Low - Ed Asner's role
- One's duty, lie down on the
- National song
- Creamy dessert
- Unprocessed
- Grand or upright
- 'a Hot Tin Roof'
- Disguise
- Crow's comment
- Extremely funny
- Aggravate
- Toot the horn
- Got up
- Bounce, no der
- Chopping tool
- Kelly & Aulry
- Vake a mess at the table

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

1/3/20



**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

|           |           |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| ASHY      | HOB       | ABLE   |
| WOOD      | UNIV      | SAID   |
| AROSE     | REBELLING |        |
| YET       | MAR       | REALTY |
| EBONY     | VAN       |        |
| SANITY    | TIPTOE    |        |
| AWAKE     | TIRES     | PRE    |
| CANE      | THROW     | SPRY   |
| KIN       | FREED     | SPREE  |
| TYCOON    | SPEEDS    |        |
| ARM       | BAEWS     |        |
| CHERUB    | ISE       | SON    |
| ROLEMODEL | CHILE     |        |
| ALMS      | NOSE      | HIVES  |
| BESS      | EATS      | PEGS   |

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3/3/20

**DOWN**

- Pesky insect
- Ducque's state
- Gormous
- Socially timid

- Group of fish
- Actress Summer & others
- us on study about
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- Sparrow's home
- Ur'tency
- Raises, as kids
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- Highrailer
- Tricycle rider
- Got bigger
- Have nothing to do with

- African nation
- up; absorb
- Groups of Girl Scouts
- Unmarried women
- Stop for a bit
- Havana's land
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- Over the
- thrilled
- To poet
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# Half of world's sandy beaches at risk from climate change

By **FRANK JORDANS**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Scientists say that half of the world's sandy beaches could disappear by the end of the century if climate change continues unchecked.

Researchers at the European Union's Joint Research Center in Ispra, Italy, used satellite images to track the way beaches have changed over the past 30 years and simulated how global warming might affect them in the future.

"What we find is that by the end of the century around half of the beaches in the world will experience erosion that is more than 100 meters," said Michalis Voudoukas. "It's likely that they will be lost."

The study, published Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, found that the extent to which beaches are at risk depends on how much average global temperatures increase by the year 2100. Greater temperature increases mean more sea level rise and more violent storms in some regions, causing more beaches to vanish beneath the waves. "The projected shoreline changes will substantially impact the shape of the



In this April 30, 2015 file photo, a man fishes along the receding banks of the Salton Sea near Bombay Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

world's coastline," more than a third of which is sandy beach, the authors wrote.

Beaches are valuable for recreation, tourism and wildlife, while also providing a natural barrier that protects coastal communities from waves and storms. Many coastal areas, including beaches, are already heavily affected by human activity such as seashore construction and

inland dams, which reduce the amount of silt flowing into oceans that's crucial for beach recovery.

Some countries will be more affected than others, the researchers said. Gambia and Guinea-Bissau in West Africa could lose more than 60% of their beaches, while predictions for Iraq, Pakistan, the island of Jersey in the English Channel and the Pacific island of Palau are similarly dire.

Australia would be hardest-hit in terms of total beach coastline lost, with over 12,000 kilometers (7,500 miles) at risk. The United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Iran, Argentina and Chile would also lose thousands of kilometers (miles) of beach, according to the study.

Andres Payo, an expert on coastal hazards and resilience at the British Geological Survey, said that while

the study's methods were sound, its claims should be treated with caution.

"There are many assumptions and generalizations that could change the outcome of the analysis both qualitatively and quantitatively," said Payo, who wasn't involved in the study. However, Voudoukas said the amount of beach loss estimated by his team was in fact "a bit conservative" and could be higher.

The group considered two different warming scenarios — one in which average global temperatures rise by 2.4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century and another that predicts an increase twice as high. The Paris climate accord's most ambitious target, of capping warming at 1.5 C, wasn't considered because scientists consider it unlikely to be achieved, Voudoukas said.

The study's authors calculated that up to 40% of shoreline retreat could be prevented by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change, but said that large and growing populations living along the coast will also need to be protected through other measures. □



In this Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 photo provided by the Alfred-Wegener-Institute the icebreakers Kapitan Dranitsyn, front, and Polarstern, rear, are pictured in the Arctic ice.

Associated Press

## From Russia, with fruit: Arctic mission gets record resupply

**BERLIN (AP)** — A Russian icebreaker has made a successful supply run to exchange crew and deliver goods to an international expedition that's been adrift in the high Arctic for months trying to improve scientific understanding of climate change.

Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute said Monday that the Kapitan Dranitsyn approached its own icebreaker RV Polarstern on Friday and spent all weekend ferrying people and supplies between the ships by foot and snowmobile. The institute said the Dranitsyn set a record by going farther north under its own power than any other ship so early in the year.

Two days before the ren-

dezvous, the Polarstern achieved its own record by drifting to within 156 kilometers (97 miles) of the North Pole, the farthest north a ship has ventured during the Arctic winter.

The 140-million euro (\$158 million) expedition required the Polarstern anchor to an ice floe last fall and allow the polar drift to carry it to the far north, a region that's normally inaccessible during the coldest months of the year. Researchers from 20 countries including the United States, Britain, Russia and China have been using the ship as a base camp to conduct measurements and experiments they hope will boost the scientific models that underpin their understand-

ing of climate change.

Melinda Webster, a sea ice geophysicist at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, who is scheduled to join the expedition in late March, said she plans to measure how the shift from Arctic winter to spring affects the way ice absorbs sunlight. This will help climate scientists understand how much solar energy the planet's polar caps can reflect, and how this will change as the extent of sea ice coverage in the Arctic diminishes.

"We know that the Arctic is changing dramatically," said Webster. Keeping up with those changes gives scientists a baseline from which to predict how global warming will affect the rest of the planet, she said.

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24/7



# Bon Jovi's David Bryan on Broadway again, livin' on a prayer

By MARK KENNEDY

**NEW YORK (AP)** — He looks like a rock star — rail-thin with long flowing hair. But rock stars aren't supposed to be on time, rip up their songs without a fuss or eat salad. David Bryan is a different kind of rock star.

The keyboardist for Bon Jovi is embarking on a busy 2020, with a new album and tour with one of America's favorite rock bands as well as opening his second Broadway musical, "Diana."

"This used to be moonlighting," Bryan laughs about his side hustle on Broadway. "Now I have two full-time jobs? What am I doing to myself?" The one thing that's definitely still rock star about him is his view on the hours: Working early mornings, he says, is like "getting waterboarded."

Bryan, 58, has been faithfully attending rehearsals for his musical about the life of Princess Diana, which opens March 31. He's one of the first to arrive and is happy to sit through hours of tweaking to get it ready. "It is my fault if it's good," he says. "It's also my fault if it's bad."

He has teamed up with longtime collaborator, playwright Joe DiPietro, to tell the tragic and yet inspiring story of a young woman learning to break free of the confines of the British royal family. It arrives at a time when Diana's youngest son is also pushing royal boundaries. "We got good luck in the timing world," Bryan jokes.

Stage musicals — with all their moving pieces and the need to do it live — offer a delicious challenge to Bryan. "It's the hardest algorithm anybody can ever solve," he says. "I love all those moving pieces. To me, I want to figure it out." The first stage show he attempted was "Sweet Valley High: The Musical," but it didn't get beyond a small workshop. A breakthrough came when he was sent a script by DiPietro for "Memphis," which traces the integration of radio in the 1950s against the backdrop of an interracial love story.



This Jan. 30, 2020 file photo shows playwright Joe DiPietro, left, and David Bryan participate in a "Diana" Broadway musical cast special performance in New York.

Associated Press

The music was right up Bryan's alley: Before he hit it big with "Livin' On a Prayer," he and Jon Bon Jovi had been in a horn-led cover band in 1979, earning \$7 a night playing rock classics like "Knock on Wood" and "In the Midnight Hour."

"I literally read the whole thing and I heard it. And I called up Joe. I'm like 'I hear every song.' And he's like 'Do you hear anything else?' I go 'Yeah, there are other voices in my head. But we can talk about that later.'"

DiPietro challenged the rock star to prove his musical chops. So Bryan picked a song — "The Music of My Soul" — and went to work. Their phone call was at noon and Bryan knew FedEx's last pick-up was 6 p.m. He wrote the music and lyrics for the song,

added drums, piano and horns. "Burned a CD, made it to FedEx and it was on his doorstep the next morning," Bryan says.

"Him and I, you know, we click. It's great," he adds. "I've written with a lot of other people and, for some reason, with him, I just get whatever it is to put into a song."

"Memphis" went on to win the 2010 Tony Award for best musical and DiPietro won for best story. He and Bryan won for best original score, sharing credit for lyrics. Bryan also won for best orchestrations, meaning he's got more Tonys than Grammys.

Bryan grew up in New Jersey with a father who was a good singer, if not a professional one. The elder Bryan liked to sing "Sunrise Sunset" and his son saw "Fiddler

on the Roof" on Broadway in 1975 for his bar mitzvah. ("You have to. It's part of the rule," he jokes.) He would fall in love with cast albums for "Hair" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and became a classically trained pianist.

Music tumbles out of him. He and DiPietro have come up with 26 songs for "Diana," and he's not afraid to scrap any for the greater good. After the show premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in California, the songwriters overhauled the second act, tossing out about six songs and writing another eight. Then they went back and wrote five more to make those eight songs make sense.

"I go, 'OK. Throw that away and let's do it again. Let's try this.' I have no problem just throwing," Bryan says.

"Maybe it will be in another show. It's not going away. OK. But for now? Wipe the slate clean."

DiPietro compliments his collaborator for an ego-less ability to change course. "He's one of those rare people from which music somehow flows. He's not precious with his work, I think because he always has another idea which he is equally excited to try out," DiPietro says.

Fittingly, Bryan and DiPietro began writing songs for "Diana" in London, where "Memphis" was opening. The first tune they penned — called "An Officer's Wife" — was about the queen, and Bryan decided to use lots of drums to make it sound like a military march. Something clicked and the creative floodgates soon opened. Each character would have their own musical flavor — a string quartet for Prince Charles, soft rock for Camilla, ugly guitars for the paparazzi and rock for Diana. He wrote it all for a 16-piece band.

For both his Broadway musicals, Bryan, a white Jewish kid from Edison, New Jersey, has written songs for characters far from his own personal experience — African Americans in the segregated South for "Memphis" and now upper-crust Brits for "Diana."

Empathy and the ability to step into someone else's shoes is his strength. Bryan recalls facing anti-Semitism growing up. "I know what hate is," he says. "I know what pain is. I understand that." As for as "Diana," he thinks a couple of Yanks can write something powerful because they don't have any skin in the game. "I think being removed is an advantage."

He's juggling his new musical at the same time his other job is also requesting his talents. The album "Bon Jovi 2020" is set for release in May, and the band goes on tour this summer.

Whether it's on a concert stage or a Broadway one, Bryan has the same target: "The goal is always exceeding people's expectations," he says. □





This image released by Universal Pictures shows Elisabeth Moss in a scene from "The Invisible Man."

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Elisabeth Moss-led thriller "The Invisible Man" rode a wave of good reviews to a very visible spot atop the box office this weekend. Universal Pictures on Sunday estimated that the film

# The Invisible Man' tops box office with \$29 million

from writer-director Leigh Whannell earned \$29 million from North American theaters. Internationally, the Blumhouse production picked up an additional \$20.2 million.

Whannell helped dust off the classic H.G. Wells story and update it for modern audiences by focusing on Moss' victim character instead of the Invisible Man character, who here is an abusive ex-boyfriend.

"The Invisible Man" carried a relatively modest budget, costing under \$10 million to produce, and exceeded expectations by a few million dollars. The film, which had been well-received by critics, drew diverse audiences to the theaters (46% Caucasian, 20% African American and 18% Hispanic), according to exit polls. "We couldn't be more pleased," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution.

"(Whannell) brought this century-old character to

life in a very clever and relevant way."

The studio expects it to continue to play well into March, although it will have some extra competition when "A Quiet Place Part II" opens on March 20.

Paramount Pictures' "Sonic the Hedgehog" slid to second place in its third weekend in theaters adding \$16 million and bringing its domestic total to \$128.3 million. "The Call of the Wild," with Harrison Ford, placed third in its second weekend with \$13.2 million.

Fourth place went to the anime superhero film "My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising" which opened to \$6.3 million from just 1,260 screens.

"We should never underestimate films like this that may not have broad recognition among the general public," said Comscore's senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"Bad Boys for Life" rounded out the top five with \$4.3

million in its seventh weekend. The Will Smith and Martin Lawrence pic is just shy of reaching the \$200 million mark in North America and has earned over \$400 million globally.

In limited release, "Wendy," Benh Zeitlin's long-awaited follow-up to his Oscar-nominated film "Beasts of the Southern Wild," got off to a bumpy start with just \$30,000 from four theaters. The Peter Pan-inspired film has garnered mixed reviews from critics and will be expanding in the coming weeks.

Although it's still early in the year, overall the box office is up nearly 3.5%.

"This weekend it was business as usual in North American theaters," Dergarabedian said. "People went to the movies to escape the trials and tribulations of the real world."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. □

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PH MON-THU & SUN 8:30  
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PH MON-THU 6:40 8:50  
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PBP MON-THU 5:30 7:35 9:40  
FRI 5:30 7:35 9:40 11:45  
SAT 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40 | 11:45  
SUN 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40

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PH MON-THU 6:00 8:20  
FRI 6:00 8:20 10:40  
SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 | 10:40  
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PBP MON-THU 4:20 6:35 8:50  
FRI 4:20 6:35 8:50 11:05  
SAT 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50 | 11:05  
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PH MON-THU 6:00 8:35  
FRI 6:00 8:35 11:05  
SAT 3:25 6:00 8:35 | 11:05  
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## AT&T launches new online TV service as video customers fall



This file photo combo shows the AT&T logo on the side of a corporate office in Springfield, Ill., left, and a DirecTV satellite dish atop a home in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — AT&T is launching a new internet-delivered TV service Monday as it struggles with a shrinking DirecTV satellite business.

The new service, AT&T TV, will have most of the same channels offered on DirecTV, but it'll come over the

internet rather than a satellite dish. AT&T has been testing the service in 13 markets and is now making it available to anyone.

AT&T will send subscribers an Android streaming-TV box to use the service. The free device will also come with Netflix and

other streaming apps, the way Comcast's X1 cable box does. Additional boxes cost \$120. The channel line-ups and prices are comparable with what's available from DirecTV, but AT&T TV doesn't have NFL Sunday Ticket, a package of out-of-market football games. The company is trying to adapt to the shift to streaming video, as subscribers to traditional cable and satellite TV services fall. In May, it's launching HBO Max, a \$15-a-month streaming service that will marry HBO shows with original programs and TV shows and movies from WarnerMedia. AT&T also has an online package that started as a cheaper service with fewer channels than a traditional bundle, but it is shedding customers after price increases. AT&T is now trying to downplay that service in favor of the new AT&T TV. □



## Ecology and kinetic styles grace Paris Fashion Week shows

By THOMAS ADAMSON  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Models wearing animal outfits joined the finale of Stella McCartney's fur-free and leather-free show Monday, as the British-American designer continued to shine a light on the environment and animal cruelty in the industry. The show, which explored a chic cross-over silhouette in soft and huggable fabrics, was runway proof that ethically produced clothes can still have a strong luxury feel. Here are some highlights of fall-winter 2020 shows.

**STELLAR CROSS-OVER STYLE**  
Long flappy belts and strips of fabric provided the vibrancy in Stella McCartney's fall collection that was otherwise missing amid the rather muted color palette of "terrestrial tones." Inside the gilded salons of the Paris Opera, in her morning show, McCartney used the features in form to create a dynamic visual movement.



A model wears a creation for the Stella McCartney fashion collection during Women's fashion week Fall/Winter 2020/21 presented in Paris, Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

A nearly two-yard-long diagonal sash, held in place by two buttons, graced the front of a loose pastel-gray double-breasted suit to create a dynamic visual kinesis. Elsewhere, a long ribbed strap plunged down to the model's knee

from an abstractly shaped dark gray top, and a bone-colored knitted dress hung heavily and limp with wavy ribbing. All these styles created a sense of clothes in action — an accomplished feat of design.

The collection, the house

said, was inspired by Russian-born French modernist designer and illustrator Erté, who created dynamic and sometimes-windswept silhouettes, and whom McCartney met as a child.

**STELLA CALLS ON OTHER HOUSES TO DITCH LEATHER**

Gold and silver animal jewelry in McCartney's show added a playful touch, that crescendoed in the finale as 11 models walked the runway in full-on animal costumes, provoking laughs from tickled guests. Behind the fun, lay a serious message.

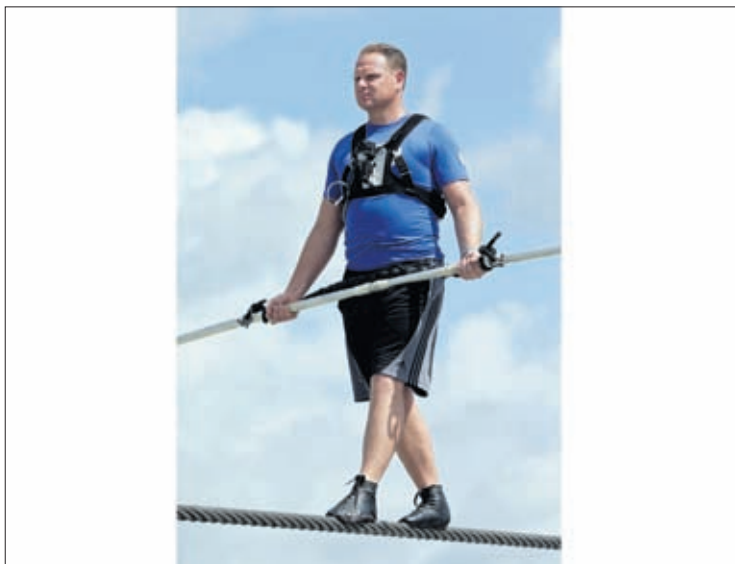
None of these animals — cow, rabbit, bison, fox, crocodile — had been killed to produce the collection.

"We are proudly the only luxury fashion house in the world not putting real leather on our runway," McCartney said. "And welcome our friends in fashion to join us."

"There has never been a time when we have had more hope in ending fashion's use of fur and leather," she added.

Her team, which of late sends out factsheets to editors on the eco-fight, said this collection showcased even more animal-free vegan leather than in the past. □

## Nik vs. the volcano: How Wallenda is prepping for new stunt



In this June 18, 2013 file photo, high wire performer Nik Wallenda practices in Sarasota, Fla.

Associated Press

By JOHN CARUCCI

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Intense heat, poisonous gasses, molten lava — the conditions for Nik Wallenda's latest tightrope walk are downright hellish, and that's just the way he wants it. Wallenda will traverse the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua on Wednesday in a stunt that he says will go on, no matter the conditions.

"I'm walking over an active volcano, facing every challenge that Mother Nature can throw at me from the high winds in the area to the heavy gases to, of course, the heat from that volcano, as well as the fact that it is the longest and the highest walk that I've ever attempted," he said.

"Volcano Live with Nik Wallenda" will air as a live two-

hour special on ABC beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Wallenda, whose most recent tightrope walk involved crossing Times Square on a 1,300-foot (396-meter) cable, has long dreamed of crossing an active volcano. Masaya, a caldera with an active lava lake 1,800 feet (548 meters) below where Wallenda will cross, met all his criteria.

During an interview in January, Wallenda described the challenges — or perks — of crossing Masaya.

"Best is not what one would think. One would think best for a wire walker has to do with no winds, has to do with no gasses. For me, that all adds drama and excitement," Wallenda said. "I'm looking for that, but also the right distance. Again, this is the longest and highest I've ever done. That's one of the reasons why I really liked this particular volcano, as well as the fact that it has an active lava lake down below."

The conditions make it im-

possible to erect the tightrope in advance.

"The cables can't go up early because the sulfuric gasses in the air will actually eat through the cable to the point where it will actually crumble," Wallenda said. "We can't put it up in advance. It's got to be put up very short window prior to the actual walk."

That begs the question of how Wallenda practices for a stunt with every challenge that Mother Nature can send his way without seeing the rope in advance?

Blindfolded, of course. In between trips to the actual site, Wallenda has been preparing at his home in Florida.

"I will be practicing in a smoky room, but it's training believe it or not, with my eyes closed. It's training with a gas mask on. It's training with goggles on. It's training with wind machines. It's kind of throwing every element that I'll be facing," Wallenda said.

Wallenda is a seventh-generation acrobat and comes from a family of star tightrope-walkers.

For his last major stunt, his walk on live television over New York's Times Square, Wallenda was tethered in case of a fall. But that was more about a New York City ordinance than caring for his own safety. This time, Wallenda hopes there are not any safety protocols, other than his safety team. "If something happens, I've trained my entire life to go down and hold that wire and wait for help," Wallenda said.

Depending on the conditions, Wallenda anticipates the one-third of a mile walk will take 30 to 35 minutes.

"It really comes down to that volcano and the way it wants to act for that day. I've been there where it's clear and I've been there where you can't see 5 feet in front of you," Wallenda said. "It doesn't matter what the weather is like, (when) it is go time, it's go time." □



# Crafts can help refugees find community, and maybe a living



This May 15, 2019 photo shows A Little Something participants Khei Hung from Burma, left, Sabah Almobarak from Syria, Eh Gay Ju from Burma, and Mounira Kuru from Syria, as they work through frustration and creative challenges in their first lesson making wire-wrapped necklace pendants in Aurora, Colo.

Associated Press

**By MOLLY SPRAYREGEN**  
**Associated Press**

When Bahija Karim arrived in Idaho as an Afghan refugee in 2005, she knew little about American culture. She didn't speak English. A volunteer directed her to Artisans for Hope, a local crafts initiative for refugees. There, she was taught crafting skills and English. Artisans for Hope took Karim on field trips. They found her a job with a seamstress, which she held for nine years, and then they helped her start her own custom drapery business, The Golden Needle.

Karim says Artisans for Hope helped her feel like an empowered member of her new community. With their help, she says, "all the people know we are human beings. We could make something for ourselves, for them, for the country, for the community."

Around the world, crafting

is being used as a tool to help refugees — and especially women — get acclimated to a host country, learn skills and, sometimes, earn a living.

"We provide a venue for refugee women to craft together, build a community, make some friends, and have a safe way to interact with each other and talk about what they've been through," says Sharon McCreary, who in 2007 helped found A Little Something, a women's refugee crafts organization in Denver.

A Little Something also sells the crafts and gives artisans 75% of the earnings.

In Paris, the Agency of Artists in Exile (aa-e) supports professional artists — from painters to photographers to dancers to musicians — who come to France as refugees. Founded in 2017 by Judith Depaule and Ariel Cypel, the group works with about 200 art-

ists from 45 different countries, many of them seeking political asylum. The organization hosts a festival, provides workspace, offers French classes, and helps artists find grants, residencies and jobs. If they need lawyers, psychiatrists or accommodations, aa-e helps find those too.

"When you get to a country in the way of exile," Depaule says, "you can have a lot of bad experiences, very hard, very traumatizing experiences. And when you are waiting for papers it's very hard, too. Because you don't know if they will say yes or not, so (art) is a possibility to start to build something, and to start thinking about something else."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also runs a craft-based initiative, Made51. It partners with local groups around the world to help artisan



This March 21, 2015 photo taken in Aurora, Colo., shows necklaces made at A Little Something.

Associated Press



This January 2018 photo taken in Aurora, Colo., shows A Little Something participants showing off their pay for jewelry they created.

Associated Press

refugees connect to markets where they can sell their products.

Made51's Global Manager Heidi Christ says that after forming a successful partnership with Virgin Megastores in the United Arab Emirates, the Made51 team is now working to expand and grow its direct-to-consumer market.

"We see lots of possibility," Christ says. "People love the storytelling behind Made51, love the idea of being able to buy from refugees in many different countries and do it in a way that also supports local business growth in these developing countries."

She hopes a ripple effect of Made51 will be to shift people's perception of refugees.

"Despite the conditions that a refugee artisan is living in, they're able to make this beautiful product," she says, "And then the way the consumer can think about refugees changes."

Depaule, too, hopes to change attitudes, aiming to hold more aa-e festivals in countries where taking in refugees is controversial.

And back in Idaho, Artisans for Hope worked to change hearts and minds through a traveling quilt project. In partnership with the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the artisans created story quilts and traveled around Idaho, Oregon, and Utah to display them.

"It was for me a very good experience," says quilt project participant Wafaa Alwan, "because I was seeing support from people." Alwan came to the United States from Iraq, and was connected to Artisans for Hope after opening up to a friend about struggling with homesickness.

"It's not just a center for crafting," she says. "It's a healing center for us. It's really a second chance for refugee ladies to find a place to live and prosper in the community." □

